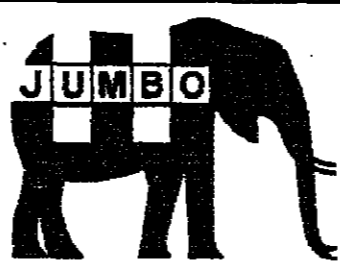


Italian gain Bailey loss



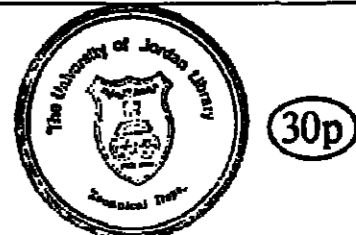
**INSIDE TODAY**  
**A CHRISTMAS MAGAZINE**  
*Anthony Burgess looks at the state of Christianity this Christmas Eve*  
*In the Review section: Jumbo Crossword*



**ON BOXING DAY**  
**SPECIAL EDITION**  
*The Times will be the only quality newspaper to publish on Boxing Day*  
*For more details turn to page 20*

LAST WEEK'S AVERAGE DAILY SALE 435,000  
 No 63,273

# THE TIMES



SATURDAY DECEMBER 24 1988

## Doubts grow over 747 bomb

### Channon holiday provokes anger

- Crash investigators have so far found no evidence to indicate that Pan Am Flight 103 was destroyed by a bomb
- Mr Paul Channon, the Transport Secretary, announced a review of security at Britain's airports
- They are studying similarities between it and the destruction of an Air India Boeing 747 off Ireland in 1985
- He was later criticized for going ahead with a holiday in the West Indies so soon after the Lockerbie disaster

By Harvey Elliott, Philip Webster and Michael Evans

More than 48 hours after the Lockerbie air disaster, investigators on the scene and scientists who have inspected the black box can find no trace of a bomb or sabotage.

First tests on the flight recorders of the Pan Am plane revealed nothing abnormal until a split second before radar contact was lost.

Then there is a "faint unquantified noise" on the cockpit voice recorder which experts are still trying to analyse.

Despite the lack of positive evidence, the sabotage theory has not been ruled out, and the row over Britain's response to warnings of a terrorist threat to Pan Am flights continued.

As rescue teams continued to search for more bodies, with the death toll revised to 274, another argument developed because Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Transport, flew to the West Indies for a Christmas holiday yesterday. He was believed to be joining his family on the island of Mustique.

He left behind a growing political controversy over Britain's response to warnings of a terrorist threat to Pan Am flights.

As Mr Channon arrived in Barbados last night, ready to return immediately if required, the Government was under growing pressure to explain why the warning that an aircraft flying from Frankfurt was not passed by the Department of Transport to Heathrow airport, or why the public was not told.

The department explained that Heathrow had not been informed of the threat because aviation security staff concluded that the already increased level of security for American airlines did not necessitate a change in procedures.

At the same time, it was confirmed that Mr Channon knew of the warning - although he did not refer to it when he made his statement to the Commons on Thursday morning.

Before leaving the country yesterday, Mr Channon announced a review of security at Britain's airports in the wake of the disaster.

He insisted that he had no reason to believe there was any security lapse at Heathrow before the doomed aircraft took off. Mr Channon said: "At this stage, I am determined to review all security measures at Heathrow, and learn what lessons, if there are any, are to be learnt in this case. As a precaution, I am going to review all the security at all our airports."

Mr Channon faced Labour calls for his dismissal for going away on holiday less than 48 hours after the crash.

Mr John Prescott, the shadow transport spokesman, said that it was "unbelievable, intolerable and insensitive" for Mr Channon to leave for his holidays so soon after Britain's worst aviation disaster, when bodies were still being retrieved and when a big security review was under way.

Mrs Thatcher should call

him back immediately. Such a lack of judgement "would justify his replacement".

But it was confirmed that the Prime Minister had been made aware of Mr Channon's decision to leave and had cleared it.

The Department of Transport explained that Mr Michael Portillo, Minister of State, was the duty minister over Christmas, but that Mr Channon would be kept very closely in touch with what was going on. It said that the matter was weighed carefully, but that Mr Portillo had been involved from the start.

It was explained that the holiday was Mr Channon's annual break, which he usually takes in the winter.

Mr Portillo told Mr Prescott in a letter last night that, because the department received many bomb threats and pieces of intelligence of differing quality, it would be wrong on that basis to issue warnings to British travellers.

He wrote: "We assess any report in the light of other intelligence and, having done so, satisfy ourselves that the security measures applying to the flights under threat are appropriate. When the department received this bulletin, we had it assessed, and concluded that the enhanced security measures already in force in respect of US airline flights out of the UK were appropriate."

Conservative MPs supported Mr Channon, saying that there was little he personally would be able to do over the coming days. The Secretary of State has had a demanding few weeks with the King's Cross underground fire inquiry, followed by the Clapham rail disaster, and then Wednesday's air crash.

There appeared likely to be more long-term embarrassment for the Government over the Department of Transport's handling of the



Sherwood Crescent: Some houses at the top end of the street appear relatively unscathed, but near the A74, little or nothing remains.

### Similarities seen with Air India disaster

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Crash investigators last night called for detailed reports and the tapes taken from the cockpit voice recorder of the Air India Boeing 747 which crashed into the sea off Ireland in 1985 because of similarities between the two accidents.

The Air India jet, in which 329 people died, also disappeared from radar screens at 31,000 feet. Its pilot did not make a Mayday radio call. A warning had been received before the flight that an Air India jet could be subject to attack. And an official Indian inquiry concluded that it had been destroyed by a bomb, even though no evidence was ever produced to prove the theory.

Soon after the accident the US Federal Aviation Administration

ordered checks on all older jumbo jets, many of which were found to have serious cracks in the spars near the nose cone. Last night Mr Ray Davis, the official British crash investigator who gave evidence to the Indian inquiry said: "The Indian inquiry assumed it was a bomb from the very beginning even though we could not find any trace of such an explosion. We did not have very much wreckage to go on, but there was not a trace of the signs of an explosion on any of the bodies or debris which was recovered."

"We could not say for certain that it was not a bomb but nor could we prove it. I shall not believe that this was a bomb either until firm evidence is produced to prove it."

### Houses, families, even the road has gone in the crescent that vanished

By Tony Dawe and Emma Wilkins

The quiet crescent where at least 17 people were struck down as they were taking their tea and preparing for Christmas was opened briefly yesterday to reveal yet another horrific result of the Pan Am crash.

Two homes had completely disappeared under the impact of the falling rear section of the Boeing 747, two more had become empty shells and another eight were so badly damaged they will never be home to anyone again.

It was impossible to identify No 13 Sherwood Crescent, where Mr Maurice Henry, aged 62, lived with his wife Dora, aged 55. Both are thought to have died in the disaster but no remains have been recovered. The Somerville family, Jack

and Rosalind and their children Paul and Lindsay, who lived next door at No 15, are also believed to have perished and the fate of Janet and John Smith, their neighbours at No 17, was unknown last night.

Across the road at No 16 there was one survivor, Stephen Flannigan who had left his home to mend his sister's bike in a neighbour's garage. The sister, Joanne, parents Tom and Kate died.

Further north up the crescent, the houses were roofless and in varying stages of ruin. The exception was the Presbytery, No 1, the home of the Rev John Kerr, which escaped damage. On the western side of the street, No 3, the home of Archibald and Mabel McBride, and No 5, the

home of Robert and Agnes Miller, were slightly damaged. No 7, which bears the name Linnfield and was the home of Dr Neil MacLean and his wife Agnes, has lost its roof as has No 9, the home of the Edwards family who were out at the time of the crash. Mary Lancaster, who lived at No 11, is known to have died.

Janet Neilson lived at Down, No 8, James and Agnes Robertson lived at No 10, Adam and Agnes Oliver lived at No 12 but what became of them all was still unclear last night. Mrs Jean Murray, who lived at No 14 and was reported missing, turned up yesterday after being away from home on the fateful night.

Oh well,  
**YOU CAN BE SURE OF SHELL**

### Dreaming of warm Christmas

By Robin Young

As the nation broke up for the Christmas holidays it was estimated that 500,000 people were leaving the country to celebrate abroad. According to the London Weather Centre, they are likely to be miss the warmest Christmas Day since the war.

The weathermen say it is quite possible that temperatures in the South this year will beat the 13.4° C (56° F) recorded at Heathrow in 1949 and throughout the rest of Britain it will be "very mild with a south-westerly airstream".

Nonetheless, the Association of British Travel Agents

said yesterday that 300,000 inclusive holidays had been booked this year, and estimated that another 200,000 would be flying out to visit friends or relatives, or to

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accommodation they had arranged for themselves.

A total of 32 extra flights to North America, the Caribbean, the Middle East, India, Jersey and Dublin have been laid on for Christmas week, but the most popular destinations for Christmas in the sun are still the Canary Islands, Majorca and the Costa del Sol

and Costa Blanca in Spain. For skiers the Austrian Tyrol is still the most popular venue, followed by the French and Italian Alps, and finally Switzerland.

British Airways said yesterday that it would be laying on extra TriStars and jumbos for the Belfast shuttle this morning. Last year 10 planes went out for the 8.15 shuttle on Christmas Eve and this morning it is expected to be even more. The airline is also anticipating a 5 per cent increase on last year's long-haul flights.

At Heathrow, Gatwick and Manchester airports the temperature was in the 10s since

### Fugitives linked to blast

By Tony Dawe

Detectives hunting two IRA men who fled a bomb-making factory in a flat in Clapham, south London, after a street shooting on Monday, are understood to have linked them to the Inglis Barracks bombing in which a serviceman died last summer. Material found at the flat may have provided the link. A man and a woman, held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act yesterday, were last night still being questioned at Paddington Green police station. Page 20

### Deficit down Sporting talk

By Tony Dawe

Britain's current account deficit dropped to £1.61 billion last month and the pound moved back above \$1.80. Building societies reported a dismal month's business for November with net receipts tumbling and mortgage commitments at their lowest since January. Page 15

Who said: "I'd kick my own brother if necessary. That's what being a professional is all about." Or: "He bowls too many wicket-taking balls." Or: "Every man prefers my shape to that of a rubber ball." Peter Ball recalls who said what in the world of sport during 1988. Page 38

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THE LOCKERBIE JET DISASTER

Friends mourn lovely couple

'I kissed little Bryony and said take care'

By Mark Souster

An 18-month old girl and her mother were among the victims of the Pan Am air disaster, it was disclosed yesterday.

Bryony Owen, from Bristol, was travelling with her mother Miss Yvonne Owen, aged 29, a trainee social worker, who was due to spend Christmas with her boy friend.

A last minute change of plan put Miss Owen and her baby on board PA 103. She had

She would go without to provide for her. It's difficult to accept we will never see her again.

Mr Glen Bouckley, aged 27, died as he flew home to America only four days after he was best man at his brother's wedding.

Glen, and his American bride of 10 months, Paula, flew in for the marriage of his brother, Christopher, aged 25, in Sowerby Bridge, West Yorks.

It was Glen's first trip back to Yorkshire since emigrating to the United States at the start of the year.

Christopher, a teacher, and his bride, Stephanie, cut short their honeymoon to be with the grief stricken family. Last night he said: "We are absolutely devastated by this".

Glen, who worked for an electrical wholesale company in New York, met his wife, a doctor, when she visited England.

The wealthy head of a ship-broking firm perished in the crash after getting a last-minute seat on the flight to attend an uncle's funeral.

Mr Minos Kulukundis, aged 38, was director and company secretary at his late father's worldwide ship brokerage firm in the City of London.

He booked on Pan Am while his brother, Elias, and cousin, Eddie the impresario, travelled earlier in the day on Concorde, to attend the funeral. They were waiting for him at John F Kennedy Airport in New York.

Staff at Kulukundis & Rethymia, in New Fetter Lane, yesterday wept over his death.

Mrs Rose Gray, secretary, said: "He was such a kind hearted man and insisted on representing his family at the funeral in New York. It all seems such a waste of life."

More details emerged yesterday of the family of four from Surrey who were all killed on their way to spend Christmas with relatives.

Mr John Stevenson, and his wife, Geraldine, from Thames



Baby Bryony Owen who died with her mother on their way to spend a holiday in America.

seven and two at their London home in The Little Boitons, West Brompton.

His cousin, Eddie, aged 58, has directed West End and Broadway plays, including *Pygmalion*, and *Entertaining Mr Sloane*.

Mr Mark Zwynenburg, aged 29, a bachelor and executive director with the American merchant bank Goldman Sachs International in London, was returning to his family home in New York. He lived in central London.

Mr Eugene Fife, in charge of the London office, said: "Mark was an exceptional person. This is a tremendous

memorial service would be held for them after Christmas.

Mr Mark Zwynenburg, aged 29, a bachelor and executive director with the American merchant bank Goldman Sachs International in London, was returning to his family home in New York. He lived in central London.

Mr Eugene Fife, in charge of the London office, said: "Mark was an exceptional person. This is a tremendous

Police hope to keep relatives from site visit

Dozens of relatives of the Pan Am disaster who flew into Britain from the United States yesterday will be discouraged from visiting the crash site at Lockerbie.

At least 40 relatives have arrived on flights from Detroit, Miami and New York and more are expected to follow, Pan Am said.

Scottish police said that "for humanitarian reasons" they were trying to dissuade them from going to the scene, where many of the dead still lie scattered around the countryside.

Superintendent Angus Kennedy said that if the relatives arrived, the social services department and the police were ready to help.

The first relatives of American passengers who died in Wednesday's crash arrived at Glasgow airport just before lunch yesterday.

Two councillors from Lockerbie flew in by helicopter to meet eight Americans travelling to Scotland on the 10.15am shuttle from Heathrow. The passengers were also met by Pan Am officials before being quickly ushered out of the terminal and taken

by road the 90 miles to the crash scene.

Some of the relatives are waiting in Scotland for permission to visit the scene.

Pan Am said: "We are transporting any families who wish to go to London, escorted by Pan Am employees, to assist with any arrangements that need to be made.

"Some have continued to Scotland and we are waiting for the local authorities at Lockerbie to give the OK for them to visit the site."

One man in his early twenties, so distressed he was in a state of near collapse, flew into Heathrow from New York aboard a scheduled Pan Am Boeing 747 jet.

He was helped from the aircraft by a Pan Am official. Once through the customs hall at Terminal Three, where just over 24 hours earlier the ill-fated PA 103 had departed, one of the airport's chaplains was on hand to comfort him.

He was driven away from the airport with airline officials refusing to reveal his name, where he was being taken or whom he had lost in the crash.

Mock crash to test emergency hotline

By Tony Dawe

The emergency services will respond to another air crash on the scale of the Lockerbie tragedy next month in an exercise to improve Britain's handling of such disasters.

The exercise, planned a month ago for January 12, envisages a DC9 airliner carrying 130 passengers crashing on to the Sheffield to St Pancras railway line and being struck by an InterCity train.

Police, local authority staff and others involved in handling emergencies will have to gather information about the "victims" and feed it to a central casualty bureau while police cadets and volunteers play the part of thousands of relatives telephoning for news.

The information will be gathered and the calls answered at the Bristol telephone exchange used for share flotations.

The exercise will test whether the exchange can handle the "crisis" and be-

come Britain's emergency telephone exchange. Relatives seeking information about passengers aboard Wednesday's flight and the trains in the Clapham Junction crash earlier this month have complained that the emergency telephone numbers were always engaged.

The Home Office confirmed yesterday that the trial will be organized by the Association of Chief Police Officers and British Telecom. "We are looking at several ways of improving public access to information about casualties", a police spokesman said.

Mr Simon Turney, a South Yorkshire emergency planner who is taking part, said: "The difficulty in getting information about casualties is one of the most distressing aspects of major accidents in this country. We need to find a new system which can handle the flood of calls."



Yvonne Owen: Christmas with her boy friend.

intended to spend the holiday in Paris with her boy friend, a PE teacher, but his sister fell ill in America and he then sent her the money for tickets to the Atlantic.

Miss Owen lived in Chelsea Park, Easton, Bristol, and met her boy friend when she travelled to America with her friends from Bristol Polytechnic where she was training to become a social worker.

Her grandfather, Mr Richard Owen, of Pendine, Dyfed, said: "It is a tragedy. Bryony and Yvonne were both lovely."

A neighbour, Mr Alfred Lusty, aged 70, said he had seen Miss Owen and Bryony just before they left for Heathrow.

"I kissed little Bryony on the cheek and said take care. They did not deserve to die. Yvonne was a lovely girl. Bryony came first in her life."

Promise of state help by Rifkind

By Kerry Gill

Townpeople in Lockerbie afflicted by Wednesday's disaster will receive help from the Government, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, said yesterday.

The Government was assessing the damage to Lockerbie and two Scottish Office officials had been sent to discuss how best to make contributions with Dumfries and Galloway Council, he said.

The emergency services and voluntary bodies had given "aid, assistance and comfort to those affected by this terrible tragedy. But help will be needed for some time to come", he added.

Mr Rifkind said he had asked Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, Under Secretary of State at the Scottish Office, to keep in close touch with the local authorities.

A legal support group has been established by the Law Society of Scotland to help families of victims.

Professor Ross Harper, the Law Society's president, said the group had been established to give relatives professional advice. It had considerable experience from other disasters.

200 made homeless in town

By Peter Davenport

Teams of social workers have been assigned to a long-term counselling operation to help Lockerbie come to terms with its grief after PA 103 crashed on the town.

Drawing on the experiences of colleagues elsewhere who have dealt with disasters, 10 senior managers and 20 social workers have begun to prepare for months, possibly years, of close involvement with families.

Survivors and relatives of victims of the Bradford football ground fire three years ago, for example, are still receiving assistance from psychiatrists.

Since the crash of the 747, the immediate needs of the families made homeless and those whose relatives were killed have already been met.

The more serious and difficult problems are yet to arise, according to Mr Tom McMenamay, director of social work for Dumfries and Galloway.

Yesterday he said: "At the moment there is almost a buoyancy about the place but when the media goes and the world turns its attention somewhere else, Lockerbie

will feel very isolated. That is when our real job begins."

Social services have become skilled over recent years in the demands of grief counselling, the impact on communities of incidents such as the Bradford football ground fire and the Hungerford shootings has created a national pool of skills and resources.

By yesterday one social worker from Camden, north London and another from Grampian, which handled the Piper Alpha aftermath, were already working alongside Mr McMenamay's team in a noisy, crowded classroom in Lockerbie Academy, the local high school. The academy has been turned into the command centre for those coping with the aftermath of the disaster.

Every social service director in the country has offered assistance and extra social workers will be drafted in.

There is also a recognition that social workers themselves and those helping in the unpleasant task of recovering bodies will also need counselling to cope with their experiences.

Two teams are involved

with relatives of those who died on PA 103. At least 20 relatives were expected by the end of the day.

Mr McMenamay said: "More than 200 people in the town were made homeless, with most going to relatives and 70 staying in hotels and guest houses. Our immediate responsibility is to restore people to their more normal way of life as quickly as possible. How that will be funded I don't want to pursue. It seems to me that it has to be done and then somebody has to worry about how it is funded."

Anyone entering Lockerbie ignorant of the disaster would find many parts of the town apparently normal; shops with Christmas decorations, people cheerfully going about their daily tasks.

Mr McMenamay said it did not mean the loss of at least 13 adults and four children was not deeply and sincerely felt. It was part of the healing process which communities such as Lockerbie have to go through. The time for public expressions of grief will come when the world has turned its attention elsewhere.

Passengers and crew on ill-fated flight

Pan American World Airways in New York has issued the following list identifying the crew members and passengers who were aboard PA 103:

Crew: Captain: Paul G. Tibbets, 56, Los Angeles, California; First Officer: James M. Smith, 42, Dallas, Texas; Cabin Crew: 11, including: Mary E. Jones, 38, Los Angeles, California; ...

Passengers: ... Mrs. ... Mr. ... Mrs. ...

Passengers: ... Mr. ... Mrs. ...

Passengers: ... Mr. ... Mrs. ...

LIBERTY'S WINTER SALE. Starts on Tuesday, 27th December at 9.00 am. LIBERTY. REGENT STREET, W1 BATH CAMBRIDGE CANTERBURY CHELSEA CHELTENHAM CHESTER EDINBURGH GLASGOW KINGSTON UPON THAMES MANCHESTER NORWICH OXFORD SALISBURY YORK

# Disciplining not linked to Clapham, says BR Signalman in TV talk dismissed

By Roland Rudd  
Employment Affairs Reporter

A British Rail signalman was dismissed yesterday after he alleged on television that the railway board is suffering from numerous signal failures such as the one that caused the Clapham Junction disaster in south London.

Mr Michael Lisicki lost his job after a 75-minute disciplinary hearing at Waterloo station.

He faced three charges: doing a double shift to help a friend; aiding and abetting a friend to be absent from work without authority and for being 17 minutes late for work on November 21.

Mr Lisicki said the charges were "trumped up" to dismiss him after he made allegations on BBC's *Kilroy* programme that signal failures occur

regularly because of faulty equipment. "British Rail is victimizing me for what I said on television. Other guys who have been caught doing a double shift in the past have just been given a warning", he said.

Mr Jimmy Stevenson, who represented Mr Lisicki for the National Union of Railwaymen, told the hearing that double shift practices had been going on for years and that on occasion British Rail asked employees to do a double shift when staff are

unwell. Mr Lisicki, aged 25, of Chartham Grove, West Norwood, south-east London, yesterday repeated his allegations that "Clapham could happen again unless British Rail stop cutting staff and overworking technicians".

He added: "The bosses have to improve pay and employ more experienced staff. The older signals, if

they are maintained properly are adequate, but the new signals, installed on a low budget, could cause another disaster."

British Rail confirmed he had been dismissed "after an incident in November" but was not given official notice of the charges until December 15.

"Mr Lisicki was not sacked or disciplined as a result of appearing on television", said Mr Lisicki, who has seven days to appeal.

A preliminary meeting of the public investigation into the Clapham Junction disaster is to be held on January 9 in Central Hall, Westminster. It has been called by Mr Anthony Hadden, QC, who was appointed to conduct the inquiry.

Meanwhile British Rail is to order new rolling stock to replace units written off, less than two weeks ago, in

the disaster, in which 34 people died. This was revealed in a written answer in the House of Commons by Mr Michael Portillo, Minister of State for Transport.

Six units were effectively destroyed in the collision, and they will be replaced by six additional four-car units of the type used on the ThamesLink line, which operates services from Bedford across the Thames to Gatwick and the south coast.

The Prime Minister yesterday held out little prospect of eliminating overcrowding on London commuter trains to the extent that all passengers could expect to have a seat.

In a letter to Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, Mrs Thatcher said that it was not yet known whether the trains involved in the disaster were over-crowded.

## Yard alerts shoppers to bomb threat

By David Sapsted

An alert to shoppers to be vigilant for terrorist bombs and incendiary devices at new year sales was issued by Scotland Yard last night.

Anti-Terrorist Squad officers searching for both the IRA unit operating a bomb factory discovered in Clapham, south London, and

the Animal Liberation Front activists believed to be responsible for arson attacks on stores in London, Birmingham, Plymouth and Cardiff this week, are particularly concerned about the threat posed during the post-Christmas sales rush.

Fears that the recent spate of attacks on stores may continue were heightened by a

fire early yesterday which destroyed a clothes store in Queen's Road, Bristol. "We believe this was arson and that some form of accelerator was used", Chief Insp Bryan Saunders, of Avon and Somerset police, said. Scotland Yard said the threat over the new year sales period was "always very real and, obviously, there is a need for the public to be

particularly vigilant".

South Wales police yesterday issued a description of the man they want to interview after a fire, being linked to the Animal Liberation Front, at Howells department store in Cardiff, which caused more than £100,000 of damage. He is described as 5ft 8in, of medium build, and clean-shaven with short hair.

## Portfolio

Mr Clifford Williams, aged 73, a retired chartered accountant of Newbury Gardens, Stoneleigh, Epsom, has won the *Portfolio* competition, picking up £4,000 just before Christmas. He said: "The timing is very good, but we accountants are very careful with money so I shall probably save it".

## Plea to protect Lake District

By Peter Davenport

New moves to create a legal framework to protect the Lake District from increasing threats to its character and environment are to begin next year. If they are unsuccessful many of the area's qualities may be lost forever.

National Park authorities are to consult national organizations, parish and district councils and individuals about proposals to promote a private Bill which would give wide-ranging and unprecedented new powers.

Among the more radical suggestions are a tax on tourists spending nights in the Lake District, and powers to control second-home purchases, noise levels, low-flying aircraft, boats using the lakes, and to help local people forced out of the housing market by increasing prices.

Mr John Toothill, the National Park Officer who put forward the proposals, admits they are controversial but he is adamant that if nothing is done to limit environmental damage caused by the number of visitors, the character of the area will be destroyed.

"These are far-reaching proposals but they need to be acted. Otherwise the lakes themselves will be over-run, dangerous and wastelands for nature conservation."

Mr Toothill has been with the authority for 18 years and he admits that the difficulties have never been worse.

Behind the proposals are problems created by the parks' own success story. It caters for up to 14 million visitors a year and there is no sign of the numbers falling.

The tourism boom, fuelled by easier access by road and rail and greater prosperity, has brought undoubted benefits to the local economy. Up to 45 per cent of all jobs in the Lake District relate to tourism and much of the £275 million spent each year by visitors to Cumbria as a whole is within the Lake District.

Critics say the character of the area has already been destroyed in areas such as Bowness, Windermere and Ambleside.

Among the proposals are:

- A visitor tax for any tourist who spends a night in the Lake District. A 50p levy would bring in between £2 million and £4 million to the national park authority, whose budget from central and local government is £2 million.

- The authority says it cannot deploy enough funds to secure the future of agriculture in the area, where many hill farmers work on the financial margin,



Mr John Toothill: "Wastelands for nature conservation".

but it wants powers to prevent the sale of farmhouses separately from farm land.

- The authority wants to be given powers to ease the housing problem of local people who find themselves priced out of the market by the demand for holiday homes.

- The new Bill would give powers to control development of fish farming in the lakes, forestry, and the siting of television satellite dishes and play equipment in hotel grounds.

- The Bill would enable the authority to introduce a registration system for boats, covering

ing all the lakes, and enable better control of noise limits and times of use. It would enforce anti-pollution and navigation regulations.

- The Bill may also attempt to impose a ban, except in emergencies, on military flights below 5,000ft.

- It would seek to control motor rallies and ban competitive climbing events on the Lake District crags.

- Mr Toothill, who hopes that a Bill can be submitted by November next year, said: "The balances are becoming distorted and if we do not move they will tip even further."

## Coventry bank robbery

# Hurd praises shot policeman

By Craig Seton

A policeman who escaped death by being shot during a bank robbery in Coventry has received a letter from Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, praising him for upholding the "finest traditions of the police service".

Det Constable Leonard Jakeman, aged 38, speaking yesterday for the first time from his hospital bed, said he knew another officer had been shot dead when he tackled two bank robbers in Coventry on Monday. He said that by turning to the side as the shotgun was fired, he managed to avoid taking the blast full on.

Instead, the pellets entered his stomach at an angle and emerged from his right side. Mr Hurd said: "I was

shocked to hear of the injuries you received as a result of bravely carrying out your duties as a police officer."

"In taking the action you did, putting your concern for your fellow-citizens before any thought of your personal safety, you upheld the finest traditions of the police service."

Constable Jakeman was speaking shortly after dozens of Coventry policemen, including senior officers, attended the private funeral of Police Constable Gavin Carlton, aged 29, who was shot dead during Monday's shootings, after a raid on the Midland Bank at Tile Hill in the city by two men.

Some officers broke down as heartbroken relatives sobbed, their cries the only sounds to break the silence which ended a short funeral service.

Nicholas Hill, aged 20, also of Newport, was yesterday remanded in custody at Coventry Magistrates' Court until January 20 accused of murdering PC Carlton, attempting to murder Constable Jakeman and robbery. He faces further charges of attempting to murder a Securicor guard in Swindon, Wiltshire, in September, 1987, and a robbery at the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society in Gloucester, last January.

## Todd gets writ in TGWU vote fight

By Roland Rudd, Employment Affairs Reporter

The former chairman of Britain's biggest union, the Transport and General Workers Union, is taking legal action against the union's general secretary, Mr Ron Todd.

Mr Brian Nicholson, who lost his seat on the 39-man executive in last February's elections, claims his opponent, Mr Steve Riley, was not eligible to stand because his contributions were in arrears.

Mr Nicholson has issued a writ through his solicitors, Lawford and Company, alleging that Mr Todd has "failed to uphold the union's rules".

At a general executive committee meeting last September, Mr Todd infuriated the 17

## Drug case man faces extradition

One of the men charged in connection with a global drug smuggling case was recommended for extradition to the United States at Bow Street Magistrates' Court, central London, yesterday.

He was accused of assisting in the conspiracy — which obtained cannabis and marijuana for the West Coast on the United States — by supplying false passports or travel arrangements.

James Newton, aged 56, a solicitor, of Kinnerton Place, Knightsbridge, was accused of conspiring to import dangerous drugs into Florida. He will remain in custody to await the decision of the Home Office.

## Brain cell transplants 'encouraging'

By Craig Seton

The hospital which pioneered brain cell transplants in Britain using tissue from an aborted foetus has now completed the operation on 12 patients with Parkinson's Disease, it was disclosed yesterday.

Professor Edward Hitchcock, of the Midlands Centre for Neurosurgery and Neurology, Smethwick, West Midlands, said that the operations showed some encouraging signs of alleviating the effects of the disease on the mobility

of Parkinson's Disease sufferers.

But he said: "It is important to stress that the procedure is still very much at an experimental stage. We shall need to evaluate the progress of each patient very carefully for some time yet before we can say to what extent the transplantation of brain cell tissue will be able to play a part in the treatment of Parkinson's Disease for some patients suffering from this debilitating condition." Professor Hitch-

cock's first brain cell implant in March caused a debate over the use of foetal tissue. He emphasized then that there was no question of fetuses being aborted to facilitate the operations and said the foetal material came from a tissue bank. The hospital's ethics committee gave the go-ahead. He also appealed to his critics to consider whether it was ethical to withhold from Parkinson's Disease sufferers a technique which could offer them some prospect of relief.

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Shown below are a few examples of the surplus stocks to clear nationwide—obviously stocks will vary from store to store and once sold cannot be repeated—so be early for the pick of the bargains.

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Bleak Leads U it faces

College run O

The family

# THE GREAT AGE SALE

# Bleak forecast for Leeds University as it faces £3m debt

By Sam Kiley, Higher Education Reporter

Leeds University has joined a growing number of colleges facing penury according to its financial report which reveals that it faces debts of more than £3 million next year.

According to Sir Edward Parkes, vice chancellor of Leeds, the university had a net deficit of £1.643 million last year and would be budgeting for a deficit of more than £3.4 million in 1988-89.

Leeds joins Aberdeen University which earlier this month announced that it was accumulating debt at £2 million a year and faced insolvency unless it received a substantial injection of funds, and University College, London, whose debt of £13.6 million has come under the scrutiny of the Department of Education and Science.

The last time a university was subjected to such an inquiry of this type was when University College, Cardiff, was rescued by the Government with more than £11 million after it was revealed that the college had spent at an insupportable rate.

Sir Edward said in his annual report to the Leeds University Court that "the recurrent grant (from the Government) for universities is planned to increase by about 10 per cent in cash terms over three years...yet Treasury estimates inflation over the same period is expected to be in the order of 12 per cent".

He said in the light of that the university would have to plan for a reduction of 7 per cent in real terms which, unless it was offset by extra

income would "imply an economics programme nearly as drastic as that we had to initiate in 1986" when 300 staff were dismissed.

After a decade of stagnation in the academic job market as many as 1,000 places for young academics are to be made available over the next five years under the Government's revamped "new blood" scheme.

A total of £70 million has been set aside to ensure that the project goes smoothly after widespread criticism that the Government's previous plan was too inflexible because it was centrally managed, allowing little room for local adaptation. The money comes from the £155 million restructuring fund allocated in November for three years plus £20 million from this year's public expenditure review.

Unlike the previous scheme the money will be allocated according to student numbers in subjects and will give managers the opportunity to recruit according to academic plans agreed with the University Grants Committee, which distributes government funds to universities, and has recently been replaced by the Universities Funding Council.

Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, chairman of the new council, has warned that the career structure in academe, which at present means that there is "bunching" at highly-paid senior levels and prevents resources being made available for new entrants, would pose problems for both initial entry and retirement.

Chairs and lectureships to

fall vacant over the next five years will be identified and the savings from salaries calculated so that new staff can be recruited at lower incomes with extra funds being drawn from the £70 million fund.

According to the Times Higher Education Supplement, Sir Mark Richmond, chairman of the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals, welcomed the fact that money was to be made available as a lump sum.

"This time we will be able to bring on people a year or two ahead of time. We can recruit someone in a new area, knowing that someone else will be going in an old area", Sir Mark, vice chancellor of Manchester University, which is to get an extra £2.57 million over the next five years, said. "Larger loans come under examination in a university degree course on rioting and civil unrest. Leicester University's master of arts degree in public order will focus on football hooliganism, unrest and rioting in Britain and the rest of the world, and is the first degree of its kind in Britain and will be on offer to students of the one-year course by October. It is hoped policemen, social workers, probation officers and Civil Servants might be among potential recruits."

Mr John Beayon, sociology lecturer in charge of the course, said: "We live in a society that is considerably more violent than, say, 10 years ago. Violence in Britain is on the increase and we ought to be trying to understand why."

# College run on Christian line

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

The first City Technology College to be run on Christian lines will open in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear in September 1990, it was announced yesterday.

The 900-pupil college will be on the site of the St John Fisher School, Lobley Hill, a Roman Catholic comprehensive which closed earlier this year.

A group of Christian businessmen on Tyneside, led by Mr Peter Vardy, chairman of Reg Vardy Motor Group and Mr Albert Dicken, chairman of Dickens Ltd, a home-

improvement chain, have raised £1.5 million towards the capital costs.

Among other companies taking part are John Laing, the construction group, and Argyll Group, owners of the Presto and Safeway supermarket chains. The Government will provide the balance of the necessary £6 million.

As well as providing technology-based education to pupils aged between 11 and 18, the college will place a strong emphasis on Christian values, morals and ethics.

Collective worship will play

a central role in the school day. The sponsors said yesterday: "Respect for traditional family life will play a significant part in the school curriculum."

Children of all faiths will be eligible to attend.

Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said: "The school will serve as a beacon of excellence for the area."

Mr Vardy said last night: "We are protecting our own futures by ensuring that children emerge from school with a good education."

# Post haste for Christmas

ADRIAN BROOKS



Sir Bryan Nicholson, chairman of the Post Office, gives Trudy Heenan, aged seven, a ride in an electric wheelchair—a gift for her grandfather from Santa Claus. Trudy's was one of half a million requests sent through the Post Office to "Reindeerland" this year. But it touched the hearts of Royal Mail workers and they did the rest. "We thought it was just the sort of thing that is a symbol and epitomizes

what Christmas is all about", Sir Bryan said. The chair will be handed over to Mr Rule in the new year once it has been modified for his special requirements. This year the Royal Mail has faced the biggest Christmas challenge in 350 years, Sir Bryan said, and it had met it successfully. About 1.5 billion letters and cards have been posted, beating last year's record of 1.4 billion.

## NEWS ROUNDUP

### Demand drops for home loans

New mortgage commitments by the building societies fell last month to its lowest level since January, the Building Societies Association said yesterday. Its figures show that high interest rates are working through the housing market to cool the economy.

Home loan rates rose in August and October, and are expected to go up again in the new year after a further increase in base rates late last month in the wake of the record balance of payments deficit.

Net new mortgage commitments last month were worth £3,445 million, down from £3,588 million in October. In January, a traditionally quiet month, the figure was £2,877 million. Mr Mark Poleat, the association's director general, said commitments last month had continued the downward trend established in the summer when interest rates began rising and double tax relief for joint borrowers ended.

### YTS places 'adequate'

Sufficient places in the Youth Training Scheme are available in all parts of the country for young people who want them, Mrs Thatcher told Mr Kinnoch yesterday. In reply to a letter from the Labour leader about homeless teenagers, she said there were 129,000 unfilled places at the end of last month and it was not correct to say that 20,000 could not find a place when they had exhausted their bridging allowance. "I understand that many of them had made no effort at all to find a place during the eight weeks they had been paid to do so," she said.

### Union merger plan

Nearly 150,000 Civil Servants are to get details of a proposed merger between their union and the giant GMB. Mr John Ellis, general secretary of the Civil and Public Services Association, said he was determined that his members should have the chance to amalgamate with the GMB instead of only with the National Union of Civil and Public Servants. If delegates at the association's annual conference turn down the proposals for a merger with the NUCPS, as twice before, the way will be open to amalgamate with the GMB to create a union with a million members.

### Ryan letter action

The Foreign Office has begun disciplinary proceedings against an official suspended after writing a letter to *The Guardian* accusing Mrs Margaret Thatcher of "self-righteous invective" over the Father Patrick Ryan affair. Mr Patrick Haseldine, a second secretary, has received a copy of a formal complaint alleging he contravened the Diplomatic Service Regulations. It marks the start of a procedure which could end in dismissal. He has been at home on full pay since publication of the letter, which accused the Prime Minister of having double standards on extradition.

### Falklanders reassured

Mrs Margaret Thatcher told the Falkland islanders last night that the Government would never accept the arguments of those who refused to recognize their right to decide their own future. She said in her Christmas broadcast to the islands that Britain was determined to uphold that right. Sovereignty was not for negotiation. "This year's debate at the United Nations saw a further reduction in support for Argentina, a clear sign the international community is losing interest in this pointless vote."

### Dorchester spruce-up

The Dorchester in London closed its doors yesterday for a £72 million refurbishment which management said will enable it to retain its position as one of the world's luxury hotels. The Sultan of Brunei bought the hotel in 1985 for an undisclosed sum after it had changed hands several times in the preceding decade.

### Father invents alarm to avert cot deaths

A father who lost a baby son through cot death has invented an alarm system to save other young lives.

Mr Clive Morris, aged 37, has set up a company to produce a monitoring device to detect sudden changes in temperature.

His own family tragedy, when his son Steven died 19 years ago, prompted him to study research into the syndrome thought to kill up to 2,000 babies a year in Britain. Mr Morris, of Port Talbot, West Glamorgan, said: "Unlike some other monitors on the market, which rely on movement or breathing, this alarm is activated by temperature which the medical profession believes more and more is the key factor in cot death."

# Pupils will get 'a free' GCSE

By Our Education Reporter

Thirty thousand fifth-form pupils will qualify for GCSE science next summer without having to sit an examination or carry out any formally assessed course work.

The School Examinations and Assessment Council has approved a new method of examining known as graded assessment pioneered by the largest of the GCSE examination boards.

The 30,000 pupils who will be awarded certificates by the London East Anglian Group

began studying for their GCSEs at the age of 11.

Graded assessment works on the principle of a ladder, with 15 "levels of achievement" through which pupils progress from the ages of 11 to 16. The top five levels equate to GCSE grades.

Instead of examinations and formal course work teachers are left to devise their own methods of assessing the performance of their pupils under the supervision of

examiners who make monthly calls.

The founders of the system, which has been developed over 10 years, say it allows pupils to progress at their own pace with the brightest able to gain the equivalent of an O level at the age of 14.

The first pupils to qualify will be drawn from more than 40,000 who have been taking part in a pilot programme in 25 local authority areas throughout England.

# Waite family hails public's support after Beirut kidnap

The family of Mr Terry Waite, who is spending his second Christmas as a hostage in Beirut, said yesterday that the support they had received from the public made them realize "we do not face the situation alone".

Mr Waite, special envoy for the Archbishop of Canterbury, vanished in Beirut on January 20, 1987, while on a mission to seek the release of hostages.

Since then there has been no word

from him or his captors. His brother, Mr David Waite, said in a statement on behalf of the family yesterday: "During this year a day has not gone by without the Waite family remembering Terry in the circumstances that he finds himself and, as Christmastime approaches, our thoughts and prayers are particularly with him and all those he went to the Lebanon to help."

"We are grateful for the continued

efforts of the Archbishop of Canterbury and his staff to bring about an end to this situation and for their help and support during this year.

"We have also been heartened by the Government's moves to seek ways of improving relations between Britain and Iran.

"Many letters of support and encouragement have been received from members of the public making us realize that we do not face the

situation alone. At this time of peace and goodwill, we would encourage people of every creed and culture to use their energy and influence to bring about the return of all hostages."

Mr Waite's mother, Mrs Lena Waite, has sent a card of thanks to Mr Malcolm Hipwell the retired postman from Modbury, Devon, who has encouraged 100,000 people in the West Country alone to send

Christmas cards to her son in Beirut. It is the second Christmas that Mr Hipwell has urged anyone with a spare card to send it to Mr Waite, using the address "c/o The Kidnappers, Beirut, Lebanon".

The Archbishop of Canterbury, speaking on BBC Radio 4's *World at One* yesterday, said: "Sometimes people have asked me what I want for Christmas and I have to answer, 'I would like Terry Waite back'."

## Councils aid Armenia

Local authorities are sending engineers and construction and public health workers to help with rebuilding after the Armenian earthquake.

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities, organizing the drive, has already had £20,000 from Hammersmith and Fulham in west London.

Sir Jack Layden, chairman

of the association, said: "Employees from the London Fire and Civil Defence Authority have already been involved in the rescue operation, but the need from now on will be for health and construction workers, public health inspectors and engineers to help the Russians rebuild."

Evacuation, page 6

**THE GREAT JAEGER SALE**

**STARTS TUESDAY 27TH DECEMBER**

**JAEGER**

**AIR MILES**

Air Miles is the exciting new collection scheme that was launched in the UK on November 1st. It allows you to fly free to over 150 destinations worldwide with British Airways and other leading airlines.

**COLLECTORS**


The response to the Air Miles scheme has been overwhelming. As a result you may be experiencing some delay in receiving your Air Miles registration pack, including the 28 page brochure, collectors wallet and 5% bonus voucher. These should be with you in the next 14 days.

**NOTICE**


If you want to join the Air Miles scheme but have not yet registered, we have some good news for you. We have extended our initial 5% bonus voucher offer to the 31st January 1989.

**BOARD**

Telephone (0293) 515633 or 515700 for further details and keep collecting your Air Miles vouchers. Then some time in the New Year you could be boarding a plane to your dream holiday destination.



**A billion and a half Christmas Greetings to you all.**



*We have delivered 1,500,000,000 greetings and gifts to twenty three million homes this Christmas. Now we are adding our own greeting to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

*We like to think that Christmas couldn't be Christmas without the Post Office. We handle more letters and parcels in a single day at Christmas than all other commercial carriers combined handle in a whole year.*

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In business to serve you this Christmas.







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TIMES DIARY SIMON BARNES

This is not a usual Saturday. Look, Holmes-like, at the curious incident of the football fixtures. There are no football fixtures - well, hardly any.

The sides occupy the bottom two places in the league. Chobham have no points, having played 16, lost 16, scored four goals and conceded 52.

Was this all the effect on morale of a barbed word processor? Well, no. For Westfield have joined the semi-pro ranks and are now paying two of their players.

Chobham, having no paid players, must rely on their home advantage and the support of the crowd - which they hope will be up to 150, instead of their usual dozen - to stir them to their first point, or even points, of the season.

Ice hockey is, of course, a game of skill and tactics, and that is why people go to watch it. Well, that's what its officials would have us believe, continually embarrassed as they are by the oldest joke in sport: "I went to a fight last night, and a hockey game broke out."

But the public do go for the skill, don't they? And they are sickened by the incidental violence? Well, maybe not. If you cast an eye through the United States organ of the sport, The Hockey News, you will find video ads for "Hockey's Bloodiest Fights and Knockouts" or, better still, an ad for "165 hours of good quality hockey fights which includes 12 hours from '87-'88".

All of this coincides with a season that has begun with a degree of violence remarkable even by the standards of America's National Hockey League - so much so that Lloyd's of London, which underwrites the players' disability insurance, has been getting worried. There was a problem when the policy came up for renewal in 1986, and it fears there will be more trouble the next time around in 1990.

Penalties for violence have risen by more than 90 per cent over the past 10 years. It is not a question of spontaneity: "When you have somebody on your team whose sole purpose is to punch somebody's lights out, it's a tactic," said one team manager. "It has become a bit of a problem."

On a more sedate plane, I can report that the latest Wisden is now available - that for 1883. It is part of a series of reprints well known in this space and contains a fascinating nugget on the highest score ever recorded in a match in England, when the Orleans Club scored 920 against Rickling Green. G.F. Vernon made 259 and A.H. Trevor 338 as they put on an intimidating 605 for the second wicket.



Don't tell me - it's Terry Lawless!

It comes as something of a disappointment to me to realize that sex cannot sell everything. Almost everything, yes, but not six-day cycle racing. Six-day cycle racing used to be a big deal, drawing crowds of up to 100,000. Now this bizarre sport, numbering minds and backsides of players and spectators alike, is in decline.

Meanwhile, a bicycle is the perfect Christmas present for any 7ft person who has everything else. Craig Mauck, of AAA Rearview Bicycle Repair, is contacting all 25 of America's National Basketball Association teams, offering to make bikes for any of its giants. He is already fulfilling a commission for Ralph Sampson, of Golden State Warriors, who stands 7ft 4in.

Hereford United football club has sent a Christmas card to Margaret Thatcher and Colin Moynihan, Minister of Sport. It depicts Santa Claus proffering a fiver at a turnstile and being asked in return for his identity card. He replies: "But I only come once a year." And only then if you've been good all year.

We were sitting in the kitchen, opening Christmas cards. There was one from Sheila and Paul, whoever they were, and one from our bank manager, and one from my Aunt May which had been recycled from the year before.

"My God!" he said. "These bureaucrats have a piquant sense of timing." He tugged at his beard - a newly acquired mannerism. Since we had moved to the country he'd grown a beard; it made him look slightly like Jeremy Irons. Slightly.

The letter was from our county council, and it said they were going to build a ring road right through our local wood.

Now, our local wood wasn't up to much but it was all we had. It was more a copse, really, across the field from our cottage.

It was mostly brambles, and trees I couldn't name because I had always lived in London, and there was a small, black pond which smelt like damp laundry.

"A two-lane dual carriageway!" said Edwin. "Right past our front door. Thundering pantechicons!" That exploded from him like an oath.

We live in a pretty, but not pretty enough to be protected, part of Somerset. People were going to campaign against this ring road, but the only alternative route was through our MP's daughter's riding school, so there wasn't much hope.

That afternoon I drove off to look for holly. When you live in the country you spend your whole time in the car. In London, of course, you simply buy holly round the corner, which is much better for the environment.

This was our first Christmas in the country, the first of our new pure life, and I was trying to work up a festive spirit unaided by the grass high-street commercialism that Edwin was so relieved to escape. Me too, of course.

Have you noticed how dark it gets, and how soon, in the country? When I returned home our wood was simply a denser clod against the sodium glow of our local town, the one whose traffic was going to be eased at our expense.

That's what I missed, you see. Edwin didn't because he has inner resources. He's the only person I have ever met who has actually read The Faerie Queene. He has a spare, linear mind and fine features; nobody would ever, even if calling him Ed. When we lived in London, in Camden Town, he taught graphics. But then his art school was dissolved into another one and he lost his job.

The government was British and philistine and London was full of fumes, so he said we should move to the country and I followed in the hot slipstream of his despair.

"Look at the roses growing in our children's cheeks!" he cried out, startling me, soon after we moved.

It was all right for him. He had people to talk to. He became a carpenter and he worked with three men, all of them bearded. They toiled in a barn, looking like an illustration in my old Golden Book of Bible Stories, while Fats Waller played on their cassette recorder.

It was such a simple idea, so breathtakingly simple, that my legs felt boneless and I had to sit down.

I didn't know much about natural history when all this happened, last Christmas. I was brought up in a Swiss Cottage and spent my childhood with my nose pressed against shop windows, first toys then bikes then clothes.

Woods of designer foliage in their trolleys to the checkout. So I came to the country green, as it were. And after a year of organic gardening all I had learnt was how to drive into Taunton, buy most of the stuff at Marks and Spencers and then pretend it was organic. Being married for that matter.

The day after Boxing Day I walked across to the wood, alone. It was a still, grey morning and without its foliage the place looked thin and vulnerable; I could see right through it.

Then Edwin and I married and we went to live in Camden Town. His streets were bedimmed with sulphuric emissions and we could only recognize the changing seasons by the daffodil frieze at Sketchleys (Spring) and the Back-to-School promotion at Rymans (Autumn). Edwin, walking up to a dawn chorus of activated car alarms, hungered for honest country toil and started buying books, published by Faber and illustrated by woodcuts, which told him how to clamp his beetroot and flay his ox.

A romantic puritan, he gazed across at the whores' drawers curtains of the people opposite and bemoaned the greed of our decade, saying quite accurately that even intellectuals were starting to talk about house prices. We lived in a flat, and my contact with nature was to grow basil, the Seventies herb, and coriander, the Eighties one, on our balcony, digging them in with a dining fork. I bought them at Clifton Nurseries, London's most metropolitan garden centre, where I liked spotting TV personalities pushing Bournemouth.

Deborah Moggach has published eight novels, including the acclaimed Porky and her latest, Driving in the Dark. A book of short stories, Smile and Other Stories, has just been published by Penguin, and she has recently completed a television serial, Stolen, about kidnapped children. She lives in Camden, London



DANA LEADBETTER

though he probably heard its soapy theme tune as he took off his bicycle clips. I never dreamed I would work out who all the characters were, they all looked the same, pan-sticked under the arc lights with their streaky perms, but to my shame I did, and worse. I minded. I even hammed it up when I was standing at the sink, digging all the slugs out of our organic vegetables.

Perhaps, I thought, if I joined this anti-road campaign I could meet intelligent men like Jonathan Porritt. Perhaps they didn't all live in NW1.

Most of them seemed to; that was the trouble. I missed Camden Town, where everybody worked in the media. At the children's primary school, where they had cutbacks, parents donated scrap paper, and they were always things like transcripts of South Bank Shows. I used to read them, on the other side of the children's drawings, so I could surprise Edwin when we were watching TV and I knew what Leonard Bernstein was going to say. Then there was the time when I could tell him who did it in a Ruth Rendell book, because I had found the last page in our local photocopier.

Edwin thought all this was futile, but Edwin had inner resources. I only had the children. You can't have both.

It was freezing outside and the cat had had an accident in front of the Aga. Well, not an accident; she just hadn't bothered to go outside. Edwin was clearing it up with some newspaper when he stopped, and read a corner.

"Listen to this," he said. "Leicester County Council is spending £19,000 on four underpasses, specially constructed for wildlife."

At the time I wasn't listening. I was throwing old roast potatoes into the hen bucket and working out how long it was since Edwin and I had made love.

"It's to save a colony of Golden Crested Newts," he said. We hadn't even on Christmas night, after some wonderful Australian Cabernet Sauvignon. The last time was Thursday week, when we had been agreeing how awful his mother was. This always drew us close. We had one or two such mild, but reliable, aphrodisiacs. Usually, however, our feet were too cold, or one of the children suddenly woke up, or we had just been reading something depressing about the disappearing rain forests.

Then I thought about the campaign, and as he started washing the floor I caught up with what he had said about the newts.

It was such a simple idea, so breathtakingly simple, that my legs felt boneless and I had to sit down.

Woods of designer foliage in their trolleys to the checkout. So I came to the country green, as it were. And after a year of organic gardening all I had learnt was how to drive into Taunton, buy most of the stuff at Marks and Spencers and then pretend it was organic. Being married for that matter.

The day after Boxing Day I walked across to the wood, alone. It was a still, grey morning and without its foliage the place looked thin and vulnerable; I could see right through it.

Within its brambles was now revealed the archaeological remains of countless trysts, date-expired litter from expired dates. But now I knew what I was going to do. I felt possessive. I didn't own the wood, of course - it belonged to our local farmer, Mr Hodgkins, and he wanted the ring road because it meant he could retire to Portugal.

I took out my rubbish bags and set to work. It's amazing, how much you can do when you don't have three children with you. In an hour I had cut-turmed my way through the place, filled three black bags, and scratched my hands.

That evening I didn't watch TV. I looked through Edwin's library instead. He was in his potting shed, running off campaign leaflets on his printing press. Nursing my burning hands, I leafed through his Complete British Wild Flowers. I had no idea there were so many plants, and with such names - Sneezewort and Dodder, Purg-ing Buckthorn and Bitter Fleasbane, Malids Bonnets and Biting Stoncrop (or Welcome-home-

husband-though-never-so-drunk). Poetic and unfamiliar, they danced in my head as I gazed at the eternally blooming watercolours. The book divided them into habitats, which helped. I took note of the "Woodland" section, writing down the names of the most endangered species. I hadn't learnt so much since school.

When Edwin returned he was surprised I was missing Minder. So was I.

"I want to learn more about the countryside," I said. He was terribly pleased. We started talking about his youth in Dorset, where his father was a vicar and he a pale, only child. We talked about the years before graphic department politics, and children, and trying to find people rich enough to buy his tables.

"I wanted to be Edward Lear," he said. "I wanted to explore the world and find everything curious." "Wasn't he lonely?"

He nodded. "But what an artist." He paused, tugging his beard. "Everybody has a time when they should have lived." "When's yours?"

"1890."

"Think about how much it would have hurt at the dentist's."

He laughed. "When's yours?" "Now."

That night, despite our cold feet, we made love - the first time since that Thursday. He even licked my ears, something I had forgotten I adored. He used to do it quite a lot, in London.

Afterwards he said: "I've been worried about you, Ruth. Have I been bossy?" I shook my head: "I'm liking it better, now."

Mabel Cudlipp had news. She was a fellow mother. I had seen her at the school gates for a year now, but we had never really talked. To tell the truth, I thought the mothers here looked boring compared with the London ones, who arrived at school breathing wine fumes from Groucho lunches. But when the spring term began I started chatting, and it turned out Mabel Cudlipp had some in her pond.

"Great Crested Newts," she said. "They're very rare. In fact, they've been protected since 1981."

That decent. Another time he drove 22 miles in freezing fog to pay somebody back when I had overcharged them for eggs. But that was when we were quarrelling, so you could call it marital politics.

Nor did I involve the children, for the same reason. Throughout the spring, I worked away during school hours, accompanied only by Abbie, who is three and who couldn't sneak on me. She carried the trolley on our daily trips to the wood, which I now considered ours, its every clump of couch grass dear to me. When boxes arrived from obscure plant nurseries I told Edwin that I was really getting to grips with the garden. He was delighted, of course. While he batted against the bureaucrats - the Stop the Road campaign wasn't getting anywhere - I glowed, my cheeks grew roses, my fingernails were full of mud. I felt as heavy as a fruit with my secret; I hadn't felt so happy since I was pregnant.

I was also becoming something of an expert. For instance, on potamogeton densus and riccia fluitans. Latin names to you, but essential aquatic oxygenators to me. I bought them at my local garden centre, which had an Ornamental Pond section, and carried them to the wood in plastic bags. I had dug out the pond, and turfed its sides.

Then there was triturus cristatus, or perhaps cristati because there were four of them, courtesy of Mabel. Perhaps you don't know what this is. It is the Great Crested Newt. The male has a silver streak on the tail, and at breeding time develops a high, crinkled crest and a bright orange belly. The female, without crest but with skin flap above and below the tail, is 16.5cm long overall, slightly longer than the male. I was feeling slightly longer than the male; more vigorous and powerful.

For good measure, and why not, Abbie and I planted some surprising plants in the wood too, garden plants, and some blue Himalayas Poppies. I had to use my Barclaycard for most of this, the whole operation was costing a fortune. And then there was my coup de grace, the orchids. We planted the Lady's Slipper (Cypripedium calceolus), the Lizard, and the Bird's Nest (neottia nidusavis), all extremely rare, and purchased from a small nursery in Suffolk whose address I had found in the back of Amateur Gardener. I cut off all the labels, of course, I'm not a complete fool. I even went to university once. I planted them tenderly in the patches I had cleared amongst the brambles. Above us the birds sang, and the watery spring sunshine gleamed on the ivy which, lush as leather, trousered the trees. I even knew the trees' names now.

In all those weeks Edwin never visited the wood. He never had time. In the country people never have time to do things like that, unless someone comes to lunch. It's like living in London and never visiting the Tate Gallery until some American friends arrive. Edwin was busy doing all the things that people who live in the country really do, like driving 20 miles to collect the repaired lawnmower, and then doing it all over again because the lawnmower still didn't work. Like driving 30 miles to find some matching tiles for our roof, and discovering that the place had been turned into a Bejams. So he never knew.

They didn't build the ring road past us; they're building it through the riding stables. This is because our wood has been designated a site of outstanding scientific interest. They've put up a proper wooden fence, and a sign. They're even thinking of building a car park. And instead of thundering pantechicons we've now got thundering Remnants full of new-watchers.

It's Boxing Day today and people have come from all over, it's been really interesting. They knock on our door, and ask the way, and admire our cottage; botanists in particular are very polite. We're doing a brisk trade in eggs, too. Ours are guaranteed salmonella-free because the hens are fed on my organic bread, which is so disgusting we're always throwing it away. Sometimes the people even leave their children here, to play with mine, while they tramp across the field to look at the orchids. Danny, that's my eldest, has even started saying things like "mega-crucial". Now we have our own traffic jams I don't miss Camden Town at all.

What Edwin feels about this is best described as mixed. Still, his furniture business is booming because it's only two miles away and even he is materialistic enough to put up a notice, with a sepia photograph and a map, pointing them in the right direction. And so much has happened during the day that we don't have to talk about his mother any more.

When spring comes, and the flowers start blooming, I've decided to start doing teas. I'll buy Old-Style Spiced Buns at Marks and Sparks and throw away the packets.

I've learnt a lot this past year. You see, about the real country way of doing things.

Deborah Moggach has published eight novels, including the acclaimed Porky and her latest, Driving in the Dark. A book of short stories, Smile and Other Stories, has just been published by Penguin, and she has recently completed a television serial, Stolen, about kidnapped children. She lives in Camden, London



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GIFT FROM THE PAST

The persistence of Christmas is one of those mysteries that ought not to be probed too coldly. It is a massive collective celebration, one enormous universal birthday party at which it is everyone's birthday at once.

Christmas to Good Friday and then to Easter, travelling on parallel lines to many an ordinary human life and hence a source of courage and inspiration to anyone who knows it.

O LITTLE TOWN

There will be little joy in Bethlehem this Christmas. The town which should symbolize peace and good will is riven by political discord and civil warfare.

Government. While the new coalition contains the Labour Party, the balance of power lies with the right-wing Likud.

How to discourage the credit boom

From Mr Hugo Kirby Sir, I have been put on the spot by my colleagues to suggest an alternative to the concept, which I believe to be rather naive, that raising interest base rates from 10 to 11, 12 or even 13 per cent curbs spending by consumers already prepared to borrow at interest rates exceeding 30 or even 40 per cent to buy a new fridge or whatever else on HP.

Defence of family welfare system

From the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Social Security Sir, Hermione Parker's article, "The meanest trap of all" (December 20), began by complaining about the so-called mythology surrounding the social security benefit system.

From Miss Françoise Poulain Sir, I recently applied to a local building society for a cheque guarantee card.

From Mr J. K. McA. Tod Sir, Mr John Perry (December 12) is quite correct that credit issue in excess of goods and services available for purchase is the direct cause of inflation.

From Mr Christopher Godley Sir, One must differentiate between genuine debt and planned payment.

From Mr A. A. Bentley Sir, During recent times there has been much discussion about the use, and misuse of credit cards, and separately, the value of education.

Space achievement

From Mr Kenneth W. Galland Sir, Many congratulations to cosmonaut Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov on their epic achievement on December 21 of a year-long space flight.

From Mr Philip Middleton Sir, Apropos Mary-Anne Sieghart's article "Keeping ITV's jewels" (December 13) there is a simpler way to ensure that TV companies have enough money to make decent programmes and then ensure that they satisfy the viewing public while still paying a decent levy for their licences.

Flooding on the Fen

From Mr John Bleek Sir, Dr H. E. Mason (November 25) foresees a major disaster as a result of the proposed new Westmere settlement near Wilburton, Cambridgeshire, being inundated by flood waters.

TV standards

From Mrs F. V. B. Wills Sir, My late husband's great-grandfather, the Reverend Francis Edward Wills, and his grandfather the Reverend Edward Francis Wills, and his father Canon Francis Edward Broome Wills, followed each other without a break, from 1808 to 1913 as rectors of St Peter's Church, Upper Slough, Gloucestershire.

Channel tunnel delay

From Mr K. W. Groves Sir, Your report (December 14) that the Channel tunnel is now six months behind schedule, before the boring of the undersea rail tunnels and the real problems have begun, should cause great concern.

From Mrs F. V. B. Wills Sir, My late husband's great-grandfather, the Reverend Francis Edward Wills, and his grandfather the Reverend Edward Francis Wills, and his father Canon Francis Edward Broome Wills, followed each other without a break, from 1808 to 1913 as rectors of St Peter's Church, Upper Slough, Gloucestershire.

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Status of Eritrea

From the Ambassador of the People's Republic of Ethiopia Sir, Despite our efforts to put across our principles and unambiguous stand on the issue (the problem in northern Ethiopia) some sectors of the media, including your newspaper, seem determined to ignore them.

From Mr H. P. Elliott Sir, As Mr R. M. Purcell rightly says (December 12), it is now a direct Soviet interest to bring the cruel Eritrean war, which neither side can win, to an end, and to put pressure on Mengistu to come to terms.

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Art appreciation

From Mr Richard Kingzett Sir, In 1937 the Städtsche Museum, Elberfeld, sold Picasso's "Acrobat and Young Harlequin", which had been given to them 20 years earlier.

Anton Ulrich Museum in Brunswick needed money to repair its building, it was proposed that it should sell Vermeer's "Lady with a Wine Glass" to finance the operation.

contribute to an appeal for funds to help to conquer cancer, and indeed do so. But by now I am confused about the number of organizations involved in raising such funds.

United was not actually effected at the stroke of a pen. It rather took an evolutionary process of four years for Eritrean members of

Egg fever

From Mr F. David Skidmore Sir, The science of bacteriology is quantitative. The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food should not only have been regularly monitoring the recent salmonella infestation rates in poultry flocks and infection of eggs but publishing the results in a form which the general public could understand.

This random sampling technique has been an established function of ministry vets since the 1920s.

There was no excuse for Mrs Currie's lax use of language in the television interview which properly led to her resignation.

Father's footsteps

From Mr Henry G. Burton Sir, Mr R. Josiah Pratt (December 3) mentions three generations of his ancestors who were successively vicars of St Stephen's in the City from 1824 to 1911.

From Mrs F. V. B. Wills Sir, My late husband's great-grandfather, the Reverend Francis Edward Wills, and his grandfather the Reverend Edward Francis Wills, and his father Canon Francis Edward Broome Wills, followed each other without a break, from 1808 to 1913 as rectors of St Peter's Church, Upper Slough, Gloucestershire.

Sweetness and light

From Mr John Elton Sir, We are told by Michael Palmer (December 17) that the choice of wine to accompany dessert ("fruit and nuts") is comparatively easy.

SOCIAL NEWS

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester and Princess Alexandra celebrate their birthdays on Christmas Day.

Birthdays

CHRISTMAS EVE: Mr A.T. Baillie, diplomat, 56; Miss Jill Bennett, actress, 57; Mr Colin Crowder, cricketer, 56; Brigadier Dame Barbara Cozens, former director, Army Nursing Service, 82; Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Vivian Dunn, military musician, 80; Sir Gerald Elliot, chairman, Christian Salvesen, 65; Sir Nicholas Fairbairn, QC, MP, 55; Mr Ernest Ferrythugh, former MP, 80; Sir Stafford Foster-Sutton, QC, 90; Miss Ava Gardner, actress, 66; Mr Jeremy Hindley, racehorse trainer, 45; Dame Joan Kleicher, former director, WRAC, 73; Sir Noel Moyzhan, former chairman, Save the Children Fund, 72; Miss Thea Porter, fashion designer, 61; Mr J.D. Taylor, MP, 51; Viscount Thurso, 66; Dr W.E. van Heyningen, founding master, St Cross College, Oxford, 77; Mr Philip Ziegler, author, 59.

CHRISTMAS DAY: Lord Annan, 72; Baroness Berners, 87; Mr James Bolger, racehorse trainer, 47; Miss S.J. Brown, principal, Newnam College, 64; Mr Kenny Everett, broadcaster, 44; Lord Grade, 82; the Ven Noel Jones, Bishop-designate of Sodor and Man, 56; Miss Annie Lennox, singer, 34; Sir Peter Matthews, former Chief Constable of Surrey, 71; Mr Ismail Merchant, film producer, 52; Sir Charles Mottradyll, former MP, 77; Sir Geoffrey Orpington, anaesthetist, 80; Professor Phyllida Parloe, professor of social work, 58; Mr Nigel Starmer-Smith, sports commentator, 44; Sir Noel Stockdale, life peer, 81.

Smothered beneath the displays of colourful but filmy trappings, designed more to lighten our pockets rather than enlighten our minds this mid-winter festival, there is a story about a newborn child whose advent coincided with much inconvenience but exceptional joy.

Who the mysterious infant eventually declared himself to be has tended to become uncertain with the passing centuries, particularly during the overcrowded and critical schedules of this modern age.

It was the Roman provincial governor, almost 40 years later, who stumbled upon the question of a prisoner's identity and status. The reply of Jesus to Pontius Pilate implicitly affirmed his sovereignty but carefully pointed out that his kingdom was in no wise based upon the systems and ways of this world.

The primary reason for his birth, he said, "the purpose for which he had come into the world was to bear witness to the truth"; his kingly authority lay elsewhere (John 18,14).

Perhaps his mother, sometime in his boyhood days, had shown him what remained of the myrrh and frankincense (hardly the gold) which had been offered to his infant majesty in Bethlehem years before. Anyway, it was a perplexed Pilate himself who wrote the royal title that was to be affixed above the thorn-crowned claimant's head a few hours later.

The reality and nature of this man's rank was demonstrated a few days afterwards. The first Gospel concludes by stating that after his death and burial the resurrected Jesus commissioned his apostles with the words: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." That supremacy, reiterated in the apostolic epistles to the Church, is a far cry from the other red-robed but

Leslie M'Caw

The Light at the inn

corpulent figure associated with most children with the activities of Christmas Eve.

The Church has always been concerned with the numerous scriptural statements dealing with the true identity of this Jew (such as Acts 17, 24-31), who was the first-born son of Mary living at Nazareth in Galilee. His imperial title is not described in provincial terms as Pilate's briefly was. It was certainly more extensive than any ruler of the Roman Empire could claim for it was without limit in extent or duration (John 12, 41; Hebrews 1, 2; Romans 8, 38/9). But personal identity is difficult to define precisely; our assessments of other people are biased, and we are often strangers to ourselves, our concepts are too restricted.

There are ample grounds in the New Testament for the belief that Jesus was truly human, "made in most respects just like his fellow-men" (but with an access to and consciousness of the Father that we do not have).

It could be said that in the timeless inter-communication of the Deity, the Adamic disaster had been anticipated and precautions had been taken; the Lamb would be slain (John 1, 29 and 36) and everything, in heaven as well as earth, would be hallowed by the reconciliation effected through the Man who would say: "I am the bread of Life ... I am the Light of the world ... I am the Resurrection and the Life."

It may still seem preposterous to us that so vast a process and so gracious a God-gift should be inaugurated by the introduction into human history of a babe, born by candlelight in the rear shed of a country inn. It is reported that the event was marvellously publicised in the vicinity of Bethlehem but the only notable action taken by "the authorities" (not limited to Judaea) occurred a

few weeks later (after the child had been evacuated to Egypt, Matthew 2, 13) when the nefarious King Herod ordered the slaughter of perhaps a dozen or more infants in that locality.

Mary herself, feeling those tiny fingers clasping one of her own, was only conscious of thankfulness and tiredness; neither she nor he yet knew the strength of God's power that would ultimately work in His Son because God — having proposed that all perfection should be found in Him — wanted absolutely all things to be reconciled to Him and for Him — when He made peace by His death on the cross (Col 1,20). Not until his lifetime was ending would the words be spoken, "for this purpose was I born and to this end I came into the world".

How could one human person cope with all mankind's inherent malady of unrest and corruption arising from our antisocial and perverse attitude towards God, who has made us for a destiny which most people neither understand nor want?

What if that Person had access to powers and resources (love, truth, forgiveness and creativity) of a quality far beyond human comprehension? Is a banknote to be valued by the mere cost of a slip of paper or by the style and colour of its printing? Is not its worth to be interpreted by the resources and credibility of the issuing company and by the meaning of the words carried over the inner papermark that shows it is genuine?

Neither Joseph nor Mary would have gleaned much from Simeon's cryptic hints in the Temple a week or so later (Luke 2, 34-5), although he had definitely said, as he held the infant boy in his arms, that he had seen the salvation divinely prepared for all the nations to see. The God-story has only just begun. The writer is a retired Baptist minister.

OBITUARIES

PROF NIKOLAAS TINBERGEN Insights into the way animals behave

Professor Nikolaas Tinbergen, FRS, Nobel Laureate and Emeritus Professor of Animal Behaviour at Oxford, who died on December 21 aged 81, was both a naturalist, with a real love of natural history, and an acute scientist.

He was one of the outstanding leaders in carrying the experimental method into the field and, with Konrad Lorenz, pioneered the raising of the study of animal behaviour from the plane of anecdote to the level of a science.

In 1973 he shared the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine with Karl von Frisch and Konrad Lorenz. His brother Jan, the well-known Dutch economist, had already won the Nobel Prize for this discipline four years before.

The son of Dirk Cornelis Tinbergen and Jeanette van Eek, Nikolaas Tinbergen was born in The Hague on April 15, 1907. He was educated at the local state high school and at Leiden University.

After being awarded his doctorate in 1932 for a thesis on insect behaviour, he set off with his newly-married wife, Elizabeth Amelie Rutten, who was also a scientist, to spend a year in Greenland with the Dutch expedition of the International Polar Year (1932-33). This was a great experience for him and had a lasting effect upon his work, stimulating him to bring more science into zoological field studies.

He became increasingly interested in the analysis of behaviour and in 1936 he was appointed Lecturer in Experimental Zoology at Leiden.

A prolonged stay with Konrad Lorenz at Altenberg, near Vienna, in 1937 was decisive in his career; there began the close collaboration between them which led to the foundation of the modern biological school of animal behaviour — now called ethology.

If many of the original theories were put forward by Lorenz, they were considerably clarified by Tinbergen, who studied them more rigorously and precisely by a more scientific approach. At times the two worked together and, when they were not so closely influenced by one another so that it is not easy to separate their contributions.

Between them they brought about a complete re-examination of the theory of instinct.

Perhaps the most outstanding contributions which can certainly be attributed to Tinbergen are the discovery of what he called displacement activities, the experimental demonstration of an animal's reactions to "sign stimuli" and the realization that even the apparently most trivial movements of a bird, such as stretching the neck, have significance.

Even before the Second World War, Tinbergen had several followers in Holland and, immediately after it, he stimulated other students at Leiden to take up the work; they studied the behaviour of insects, fish and birds.

During the war he refused to co-operate with the Nazification plans for Leiden University and was imprisoned by the German occupation authorities as a hostage between 1942 and 1944.

In 1947 he was made Professor of Experimental Zoology and head of the Zoology Department at Leiden. This, however, brought extra teaching and administrative duties which interfered with his research and in 1949, in order to devote himself more fully to his life's work, he accepted an invitation to become University Lecturer in Animal Behaviour at Oxford.

Here he again built up a flourishing school of research which steadily increased in importance. He was made Reader in Animal Behaviour in 1960 and Professor in 1966.

His work, up to 1950, was summarized in his deservedly successful book, *The Study of Instinct* (Clarendon Press 1951) and two years later came a smaller volume on *Social Behaviour in Animals*.

Tinbergen's personal research was chiefly carried out on the herring gull and the black-headed gull, on sticklebacks and on the grayling butterfly. His work on the first species was brought together in his *New Naturalist Monograph The Herring Gull* (1953).

He contributed an important chapter on the development of ethology to the volume *Scientific Thought 1900-1960*, edited by R. Harré (Clarendon Press, 1969). After the war he founded, with Professor W.H. Thorpe of Cambridge, the international journal *Behaviour*.

Tinbergen wrote various popular books and also books for children; and his *Curious*

*Naturalists* (1959) he published a delightful account of the many different lines of work he and his pupils had conducted.

Tinbergen was a superb photographer and used the cine camera extensively for the analysis of behaviour patterns. For public instruction films illustrating his discoveries in the behaviour of different species; one of these, which he made with Hugh Falkus, called *Signals for Survival*, was awarded the Italia Prize for documentary films in 1969.

He spent much time lecturing with the result that zoologists have gained a much greater respect for the study of behaviour in the field, while amateur naturalists have gained an insight into the deeper problems by their bird watching; various terms coined by Tinbergen have now passed into the general language of the behaviourist student.

His charm and simplicity of manner so evident in his children's books were striking characteristics which made him very easily approached by students and colleagues.

His mixture of personal modesty and steel-hard determination to foster his branch of science made him the ideal mentor. Like Konrad Lorenz, he displayed an evangelical zeal in "spreading the word" about the importance of the ethological method of studying and understanding animal and human behaviour.

After his retirement at Oxford he spent more than a decade investigating the special problems of autistic children. He and his wife devoted hours to watching the behaviour of such children, and then drew conclusions based on their studies of animal communication. Their work in this area of human behaviour was presented in *Autistic Children: New Hope for a Cure* published in 1983.

Tinbergen became a British subject in 1954. In 1956 he was elected a Fellow of Merton College, Oxford, and in 1962 a Fellow of the Royal Society. When he was made professor he became a Fellow of Wolfson College.

He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, two sons and three daughters.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.T.B. Lloyd and Miss W.S.M. Schut. The engagement is announced between Timothy, eldest son of Sir Richard and Lady Lloyd of Sundridge, Kent, and Wilhelmina, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs G.H.A. Schut of Amstelveen, The Netherlands.

Mr S.W. Argenbright and Mrs V.G. Ryder. The engagement is announced between Steven, only son of Mr L. Argenbright of Romeock, Virginia, and Mrs Stone of Sussex, and Valerie (née King), only daughter of the late Mr and Mrs J.A. King of Pembroke, Herefordshire.

Dr S.A. Barrett and Miss S. Jones. The engagement is announced between Andrew Barrett, of Putney and Putney, and Susan Jane Ames, of Norwich.

Mr R.J. Powell and Miss C.A. de H. Bell. The engagement is announced between Robert, only son of Mrs R. Powell, of Manchester, and Catherine, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs M.J. de H. Bell, of Milford-on-Sea, Hampshire and Reigate, Surrey.

Lieutenant A.B. Cowen and Miss H.J. Woodcock. The engagement is announced between Lieutenant Andrew Bruce Cowen, 1st Battalion Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, and Miss Helen Joan Woodcock, of Scalby, Scarborough.

Latest wills

Mr Robin John Skelton, of Alderley Edge, Cheshire, £545,975. Mrs Margaret Louise Kay-Smith, of Rickmansworth, Herts, £458,175. Mr Frederick William Keene Stennett, of Broadstairs, Kent, £315,782. Mr David Harold Thomas, of Southampton, £284,489. Mrs Kathleen Sharp, of Hythe, Kent, £368,093.

Anniversaries

Today BIRTHS: John, reigned 1199-1216, Oxford, 1167; George Crabbe, poet, Aldeburgh, Suffolk, 1754; James Joule, physicist, Salford, Lancashire, 1818; John Morley, Viscount Morley of Blackburn, statesman and writer, Blackburn, 1838; Matthew Arnold, Leamham, Middlesex, 1822; Juana Ramon Jimenez, poet, Nobel laureate 1956, Moguer, Spain, 1881.

DEATHS: William Makepeace Thackeray, London, 1863; Alban Berg, composer, Vienna, 1935.

Mr D.A. Eaton and Miss J.E. Craig. The engagement is announced between Timothy, only son of Dr and Mrs Peter Craig, of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, and Elizabeth, only daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Philip Seal, of The Rectory, Portsmouth, Dorset.

Mr T.W.A. Fairlie and Miss J.M. Travers. The engagement is announced between Timothy, second son of Mr F.L. Fairlie, of Midhurst, Sussex, and the late Mrs Fairlie, and Jane, youngest daughter of Mr T. Travers and the late Mrs Travers, of 9 Booker Street, Adelaide, Western Australia 6156.

Mr Q.M.B. Freeman and Miss P.A. Ball. The engagement is announced between Timothy, younger son of the late Mr Michael Freeman and of Mrs Cynthia Freeman, of Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, and Polly, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Ball, of Shoreham, Kent.

Mr A.F. Gardiner and Miss E.F. Hughes. The engagement is announced between Fraser, son of Mr and Mrs A.F. Gardiner, of Edinburgh, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Hughes, of Tybroughton, Whitchurch.

Mr H.J. Longman and Dr A.L. Armstrong. The engagement is announced between Aidan Peter, younger son of Professor and Mrs Anne Dunham, of Hallaton, Leicestershire, and Norma Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs Carl Stewart, of Healdon-on-the-Wall, Northumberland.

Dr D.S. Nicholas and Miss P.J. Seal. The engagement is announced between David, only son of Dr and Mrs Stuart Nicholas, and Penelope, only daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Philip Seal, of The Rectory, Portsmouth, Dorset.

Mr A. O'Connor and Miss S. Hawthorne. The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr P. O'Connor, of Little Singleton, and Mrs C. O'Connor, of Birmingham, and Samantha, daughter of the late Mr and Mrs John Hawthorne, of Tisbury Vicarage, Gloucestershire.

Mr T.M. Perks and Miss C.S. Brooke. The engagement is announced between Timothy, younger son of the late Mr and Mrs Michael Anthony Perks, and Carolyn, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Brooks, of Tarrant Gravelly, Dorset. Timothy and Carolyn are currently residing in the USA.

Mr D.J. Sandison and Miss E.F. Sharp. The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs D. Sandison, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, and Heather, second daughter of Mr N.M. Sharp, Letham Park, Edinburgh, and the late Mrs J.K. Christie and stepdaughter of Mrs M.A. Sharp.

Mr J.L. Summicks and Miss L.F. Davies. The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs J.L.G. Summicks, of East Mersea Hall, Colchester, Essex, and Lucinda, daughter of Mr and Mrs G.V.C. Davies, of Whitley House, Frome, Somerset.

Tomorrow

BIRTHS: Sir Isaac Newton, mathematician and astronomer, 1642; William Collins, poet, 1721; Alexander Scriabin, composer, 1872; Mohammed Ali Jinnah, first governor-general of Pakistan 1947-48, 1876; Maurice Utrillo, painter, 1883; Dame Rebecca West, novelist and critic, 1892; Humphrey Bogart, film actor, 1899.

DEATHS: Karel Capek, dramatist, 1938; W. C. Fields, film comedian, 1946; Sir Charles (Charlie) Chaplin, 1977.

The Pilgrim Fathers landed at Plymouth Rock, Massachusetts, 1620.

SCIENCE REPORT

Cancer: Boosting the immune system

In the war on cancer there are occasional successes. Researchers at the US National Cancer Institute in Bethesda report this week on a new cancer therapy that successfully reduced tumour size in some patients with malignant melanomas, a usually fatal form of cancer.

Although the therapy is still being refined, it may never be widely available, it is a new approach to treating cancer that may have broader applications in the future.

The therapy is called adoptive immunotherapy, because it uses a patient's own immune system to combat the cancer. It was first developed about three years ago by National Cancer Institute researcher Steven Rosenberg. His latest results appear in the December 22 issue of *The New England Journal of Medicine*.

A type of blood cells called lymphocytes act as natural killer cells for the immune system, hunting down tumour cells and destroying them. But when cancer progresses, these natural defences are overwhelmed. Rosenberg and his colleagues have found a particular form of lymphocyte that has a special attraction for tumours which they call tumour infiltrating lymphocytes, or TIL for short.

The therapy involves removing the TIL cells from a patient's tumour, purifying and activating them in the laboratory, then re-injecting them into the patient with the hope that they will re-infiltrate the tumour with sufficient vigour to destroy it.

The researchers begin by removing a portion of a patient's tumour, grinding it up, and separating the TIL cells from the tumour cells. They then add interleukin-2, a naturally occurring substance that promotes the growth of lymphocytes, to the purified TIL cells.

The laboratory-grown TIL cells are injected back into the patient, who has first been treated with a drug that prevents the immune system from rejecting the TIL cells targeted for the tumour. The researchers have tried their new therapy on 20 patients. All had malignant melanomas,

a skin cancer, that had spread to other parts of the body. In addition to injections of TIL cells, the patients received supplemental doses of interferon-2 during their treatment. Some patients responded dramatically, especially considering that conventional chemotherapy rarely works for this cancer. Tumours shrank in 11 of the 20 patients by at least half, and in one of these patients tumours completely disappeared.

Because the experiments have only just been completed, the researchers cannot say for sure that the therapy will prevent the tumours from growing again, but one patient is still doing well a year after the treatment ended.

The technique is not without problems. Not everyone responds to the therapy, and the researchers do not yet know why. The therapy is also very labour intensive, and requires much laboratory and clinical time to prepare and administer the TIL cells.

Rosenberg is about to embark on a new and controversial series of experiments to prove that his TIL therapy is working as it should. Along with a collaborator, W. French Anderson at the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, he is using genetic engineering to put a marker gene into the TIL cells that are grown in culture.

He will then inject these live, genetically modified TIL cells back into the patients, the first time foreign genes have been introduced into a human subject. The marker will show researchers how many of the laboratory modified TIL cells are reaching the target tumours.

If the TIL cells are working as expected, it will be an encouraging sign that adoptive immunotherapy is a promising direction for future cancer therapy. Joseph Palca

Quintessence Times News Service 1988.

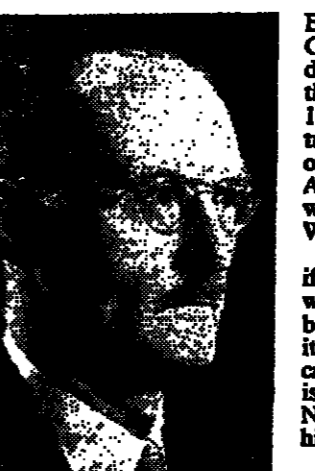
LIEUT-GEN SIR JOHN EVETTS Behind-the-scenes work in weapon procurement

Lieutenant-General Sir John Evetts, CB, CBE, MC, who died on December 21 aged 97, was one of a remarkable band of officers serving in the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) between the two world wars who were later to become Generals. No less than thirteen of them achieved this rank.

Though Evetts was one of the ablest officers of his generation, and an excellent commander of troops, he had to spend much of the war behind the scenes in the War Office, but with there he served with outstanding success. His subsequent contribution to the successful development of this country's nuclear armory owed much to his earlier experience of weapon procurement during the war.

John Fullerton Evetts was born on June 30, 1891. After Lancing and Sandhurst he was commissioned into the Cameronians in 1911 and served in France during the Great War, mostly with his regiment but for part of the time with the Machine Gun Corps. He was awarded the Military Cross and mentioned in despatches.

Having made his mark as an unusually able officer, Evetts served in Iraq from 1925 to 1928 with the British Military Mission. He was specially selected to form a battalion which became the demonstra-



Lieutenant-General Sir John Evetts, CB, CBE, MC, who died on December 21 aged 97, was one of a remarkable band of officers serving in the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) between the two world wars who were later to become Generals.

East where he was appointed GOC 6th Division. He led his division successfully during the brief campaign in Syria in 1941 but soon thereafter returned home to assume the onerous appointment of ACIGS in the War Office, with special responsibility for Weapons Procurement.

This was a vitally important if unglamorous appointment which Evetts discharged to the best of his considerable abilities. Indeed much of the credit for equipping the British Army to take part in the Normandy Landings must be his.

After the war he served as Senior Military Adviser in the Ministry of Supply until 1946 when he retired. The Americans recognized his services by awarding him the Legion of Merit in 1943.

He then became a senior member of the British team involved in developing and testing nuclear weapons in Australia; he was Head of the Ministry of Supply staff from 1946 to 1951, and Chief Executive of the Joint UK-Australian Long Range Weapons Board of Administration from 1946 to 1949.

Evetts was knighted in 1951 and had a successful career in industry from 1951-60, first as Managing Director and then as Chairman of Rotol Ltd. He married Helen Becher in 1916 and she predeceased him. They had one son.

CHAUMET JOAILLIER DEPUIS 1780 PARIS. PARIS - LONDRES - NEW YORK - TOKYO. 178 NEW BOND STREET - LONDON W1 - TEL 01.629.0136. Includes images of jewelry like rings and earrings.

Services for Christmas. Lists church services for various parishes including GANTERBURY CATHEDRAL, ST MARTIN'S, ST JOHN'S, etc. with dates and times.



STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Small gains

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began December 12. Dealings end today. \$Contango day December 28. Settlement day January 9. \$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 16).

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

From your Portfolio gold card check your eight share price movements, on this page only. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches or better this figure, you have won outright or a share of the total weekly or accumulator prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

Table with columns: No., Company, Group, Gain or Loss. Lists various companies like BOC, Biffar, Biffar, etc.

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend table with columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, SUN.

BRITISH FUNDS

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various funds like SHORTS (Under Five Years), FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS, OVER FIFTEEN YEARS.

UNDATED

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various undated stocks.

INDEX-LINKED

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various index-linked stocks.

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various banks and discount houses.

ELECTRICALS

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various electrical companies.

BREWERIES

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various brewery companies.

BUILDING, ROADS

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various building and road companies.

FINANCE, LAND

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various finance and land companies.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various financial trusts.

FOODS

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various food companies.

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various chemical and plastic companies.

DRAPERY, STORES

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various drapery and store companies.

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various industrial companies A-D.

INDUSTRIALS E-H

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various industrial companies E-H.

INDUSTRIALS I-L

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various industrial companies I-L.

INDUSTRIALS M-P

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various industrial companies M-P.

INDUSTRIALS Q-T

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various industrial companies Q-T.

INDUSTRIALS U-Z

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various industrial companies U-Z.

INSURANCE

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various insurance companies.

LEISURE

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various leisure companies.

MINING

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various mining companies.

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various motor and aircraft companies.

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various newspaper and publisher companies.

OILS, GAS

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various oil and gas companies.

OVERSEAS TRADERS

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various overseas trader companies.

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various paper, print, and advertising companies.

PROPERTY

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various property companies.

SHIPPING

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various shipping companies.

SHOES, LEATHER

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various shoe and leather companies.

TEXTILES

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various textile companies.

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator WEEKLY DIVIDEND £8,000. Claims required for 194 points. ACCUMULATOR £68,000. Claims better than 194 points. Claimants should ring 0254-53272.

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various companies.

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Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various companies.

Due to technical difficulties at Exel Financial, a restricted number of price gains and losses are shown, for the benefit of Portfolio players.

MONEY

SATURDAY DECEMBER 24 1988

- SHARES: HUNGRY FOR APPLE TREE 16
COMMENT: KENNETH FLEET 17
CHRISTMAS: SNAKES AND SANTAS 18
HOME LOANS: PLAYING FOR TIME 18

Executive Editor David Brewerton



Miss World went up while Mrs Fields went down. Cliff Feltham plots the winners and losers, page 17
Brickbats and bouquets. Graham Searjeant's alternative honours list, in The Times on Monday.

THE POUND

US dollar 1.8005 (+0.0015)
W German mark 3.1985 (+0.0090)
Trade-weighted 77.4 (+0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1436.2 (+3.8)
FT-SE 100 1774.0 (+5.3)

Bargains 10369

USM (Datastream) 146.41 (+0.44)

STOCK MARKETS

New York 2189.11 (+8.75)
Dow Jones 2189.11 (+8.75)
Nikkei Average 29686.28 (+88.35)
Hang Seng 2656.59 (+13.88)
Amsterdam Gen 1484.1 (+0.9)
Sydney AO 1484.1 (+0.9)
Frankfurt Commerzbank 1645.7 (+2.8)
Brussels 5535.9 (+5.2)
Paris CAC 4073 (+4.8)
Zurich SKA Gen 514.9 (+3.6)
London: FT-A All-Share 915.52 (+2.1)
FT-100 966.49 (+2.34)
FT Gold Mines 183.3 (-0.8)
FT Food Interest 95.70 (-0.05)
FT Govt Secs 87.46 (+0.06)
Closing prices Page 14
Recent issues Page 15

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 13%
3-month interbank 13-12 1/2%
3-month eligible bills: 12 1/2-12%
buying rate
US: Prime Rate 10 1/2%
Federal Funds 8 1/2%
3-month Treasury Bills 8.05-8.04%
30-year bonds 100 1/2-100 1/2

CURRENCIES

London: New York \$: \$1.8005
\$: \$1.8005
DM: DM1.7750
S: Sfr1.4990
FF: FF10.2047
Y: Yen124.80
I: Index: 77.4
E: Index: 94.3
ECU: ECU 0.48295 SDR: SDR 0.747444

GOLD

London Fixing: AM \$417.55 pm \$418.00 (\$232.00-332.50)
New York: COMEX \$417.00-417.50

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Feb) pm \$15.07/bbl (\$15.27)
Denote latest trading price

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Stock market comment: general market 0898 121220; company news 0898 121221; active shares 0898 121225
Calls charged at 5p for 8 seconds peak and 12 seconds off peak inc. VAT.

Trade deficit narrows but sterling fears remain

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent
Britain's current account deficit narrowed last month from the record level of October. The figures came as a relief to the markets and eased immediate worries about a further rise in base rates but analysts gave warnings that unless there is an early improvement in the trade position next year, sterling will come under serious pressure.

The current account was in deficit by £1.61 billion last month, after the upward-revised record deficit of £2.53 billion in October. The deficit for the first 11 months of the year was £13.38 billion.

The immediate message from these figures is that sterling will not come under pressure over the Christmas period and base rates do not need to rise in the short term, said Dr Gerard Lyons, economist at SBCI-Savory Mills.

This exceeds the forecast for the full year made by the Chancellor in his autumn statement, when he predicted a £13 billion deficit. The City expects a £15 billion deficit for the year, equivalent to about 3% per cent of gross domestic product.

Exports rose by £163 million to £6.92 billion last month, continuing the steady growth rate of recent months.

In the September-November period, the volume of exports was 2.5 per cent up on the previous three months and 4 per cent up on a year earlier. Excluding oil and the erratic items of trade, exports rose by 3.5 per cent in the latest three months.

Irish stake in Unigate spurs new bid talk

By John Bell, City Editor
Mr Larry Goodman, a meat trader and one of Ireland's wealthiest men, has emerged as the holder of almost 8 per cent of Unigate, the dairy products and transport group.

Mr Goodman is a "rags to riches" businessman almost unknown in the City. He left school in Co Louth in the Irish Republic at the age of 14, and worked as a messenger on building sites. At 19 he spent £20 on a lorry for shifting offal. Now at 47, he owns Europe's largest meat processing business and is said to be a multi-millionaire.

The disclosure of his stake comes after several weeks of bid speculation which has linked Unigate with the French group BSN, Kraft Inc and a Danish consortium. Unigate shares, which have outperformed the market by more than 20 per cent over the past three months, gained a further 2 1/2p to 332p. In just over a week they have risen from about 287p on rumours of an overseas bid.



Swoops to conquer: Helicopter-loving Larry Goodman (left) with Brian Britton, his company's financial executive director

Reed to pay £26m for US magazine

Reed International is paying \$47 million (£26 million) for Power and Motoryacht, a monthly US magazine with a circulation of 150,000.

Bank interest rise hits building society saving

The building societies have reported dismal business in November with net receipts tumbling and further evidence of the house market slowdown.

MacGregor leaves North Sea Assets

By David Young, Energy Correspondent
Sir Ian MacGregor, the former head of both British Steel and British Coal, has resigned as chairman of North Sea Assets, which specialises in offering services to the big oil companies.

Saur's £15m water bid set to boil up battle at Southern

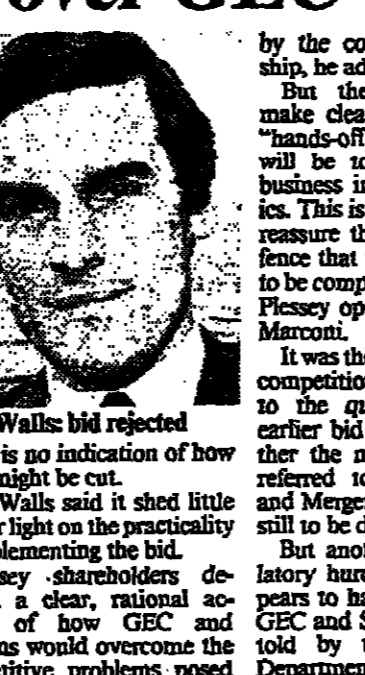
By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor
Saur, the water supply division of Bouygues, the French construction group, has made an agreed £15 million takeover bid for the Eastbourne statutory water company that seems certain to start another battle with the Southern Water Authority.

Iceland on brink of success at Bejam

By Martin Waller
Iceland Frozen Foods was last night within a whisker of claiming victory in its £234 million bid for its freezer centre rival Bejam, with acceptances from 49.5 per cent of Bejam shares.

Plessey hits at offer document in £1.7bn hostile bid Sparks fly over GEC-Siemens paper

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor
Lord Weinstock's General Electric Company and West Germany's Siemens sent shareholders their offer document in the £1.7 billion hostile bid for Plessey and immediately sparked a stinging attack from their quarry.



By the collaborative ownership, he added. But the document does make clear how much of a "hands-off" approach there will be to Plessey's British business in defence electronics.

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STOCK MARKET

Mystery buyer stalks Ultramar

There was little in the way of Christmas cheer for the board of Ultramar, the besieged independent oil explorer, as the word went around that a mystery buyer was the shares.

He is known to have snapped up a line of 2 million shares, or almost 1 per cent of the equity, at 290p a share - just above the market price.

Warburg Securities, the broker, was said to have carried out the business. Ultramar ended the shortened day 5p higher at 289p as about 5 million shares were traded.

for a full bid in the New Year - and with some justification. Sir Ron Brierley, the New Zealand businessman, has built up a 14.1 per cent stake in Ultramar and he may be a willing seller at about the 300p level.

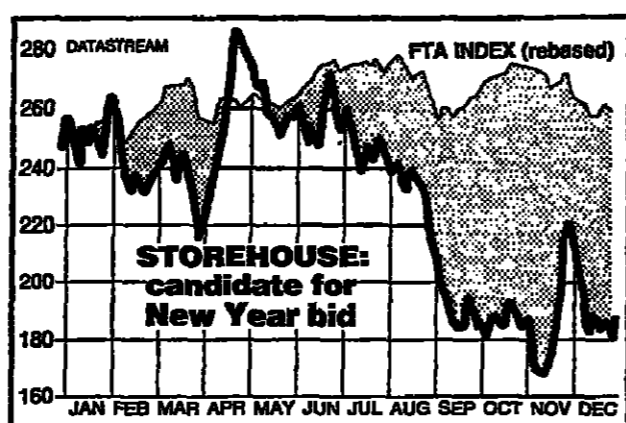
Meanwhile, Ultramar has completed the purchase of the Wilmington Refinery in California, paying \$466.3 million (£259 million).

The rest of the equity market spent a predictably subdued time on the last trading day before the seasonal break. The November trade figures turned out to be in line with expectations, showing a current account deficit of £1.6 billion.

The narrower FT index of 30 shares also recovered a fall of 0.6 to finish 3.3 points higher at 1,436.2.

Government securities closed with gains of 2/4 at the longer end.

The confirmation on Thursday that Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the broker, had been



appointed the adviser to Mr Asher Edelman, the American corporate raider, in connection with his 5.6 per cent stake in Storehouse, prompted renewed speculative buying of Sir Terence Conran's BHS.

Habitat-Mothcare, Heal's and Richard Shops combine. The shares moved up 5/16 to 190p, after 191p, on a turnover of nearly 5 million shares.

BZW is already understood

Table with columns for EQUITIES, RIGHTS ISSUES, and various stock prices. Includes entries like Apollo Metals, Apollo Watch, BMS (118p), etc.

to have approached a number of big British retailers - including Woolworth and Burton - to gauge the level of interest in making a bid for Storehouse.

The presence of several other significant shareholders on Storehouse's register has kept dealers on their toes throughout the year. Mr David Rowland, the head of Inoco, the revamped property group, recently revealed a 4 per cent stake while Mr Robert Maxwell, the publisher, and Mr Tony Clegg, the head of the Moulmeigh property group, both still cling on to long-standing interests of roughly 3 per cent each.

The Barclay brothers, David and Frederick, who recently sold the JW Cameron and Tollmache & Cobbold brewing chains to Brent Walker for £248 million, are said to have secretly built up a stake of about 3 per cent, believing that something will happen soon.

Storehouse became even more vulnerable to a bid in November when it reported poor interim results which showed pre-tax profits 30 per cent down at £23.6 million.

eratic, could find himself confronted with another hostile offer.

Unigate, the dairy products and transport group, which has been a strong performer in the run-up to Christmas on stake-building stories, moved up 3 1/2p more to 332 1/2p following the news that Mr Laurence Goodman, the chairman of Goodman International, an Irish meat trading group, has acquired a 9 per cent holding in the company.

News of Mr Goodman's interest came as a surprise to the market which had been expecting the buyer to come from abroad. About 20 per cent of Unigate's issued capital has changed hands this week and the shares have risen from about the 285p level amid intense speculation of stake-building by such companies as Kraft of the US and BSN of France.

Another exciting year awaits shareholders of Blue Arrow. The price rallied 2p to 86 1/2p on a turnover of 3 million shares. Dealers are forecasting a bid for the troubled employment agency in the New Year. The French talked about management buyout could materialize a lot sooner.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Ultramar completes Wilmington purchase

Ultramar, the British oil company, has completed the purchase of the Wilmington Oil refinery in Los Angeles, which gives its Beacon marketing subsidiary a foothold in the lucrative and fast growing West Coast market.

Synapse buys French deal consultancy at Hartons

Synapse Computer Services, the systems software specialist, is paying £340,000 in cash from existing company resources for Westwood Information Technology, a consultancy which advises companies on investment in computers. Its customers include British Airways, British Telecom, Prudential Corporation and the Bank of England.

Shell takes shale stake

Shell of Australia has bought a 41.66 per cent interest in the Yaamba and Herbert Creek oil shale deposits in Queensland from Peabody Australia. The purchase price was not disclosed.

Simon sales raise £4.6m

Simon Engineering has made two small disposals as part of its concentration on its core activities following expansion of its access platform businesses. PMC Carbon is being sold to its management for £1.6 million. Simon is also selling £3 million cash to Compagnie Financiere De Suet, a Belgian company.

Tamaris acquisition

Tamaris, the nursing homes group, is buying Dorset House, in Summingdale, Berkshire, for £2.7 million in cash. Dorset House, originally built as a golf clubhouse on the edge of Summingdale Golf Course, is the sole asset of Care Homes (UK), in which Tamaris has a 47 per cent stake.

Shares suspended in BOM Holdings

Shares in BOM Holdings, formerly Bristol Oil and Minerals, have been temporarily suspended until the Stock Exchange is given further information about the £16.4 million rights issue being carried out by the company.

Carless licences go to Kelt

The Department of Energy will permit the exploration and production licences held offshore and onshore by Carless to be passed to Kelt, now bidding for Carless.

Appletree shares jump 25p as 'for sale' sign goes up

Appletree Holdings, the food group based in Northamptonshire, has been put up for sale by a group of shareholders speaking for more than 70 per cent, after several preliminary approaches were received.

CSR energy offshoot sold

CSR, the Australian group, is selling its CSR Petroleum to Australian Gas Light for an initial Aus\$102 million (£48.34 million). Another Aus\$20 million will follow for CSR's interest in the Denison Trough joint venture with CSR Petroleum.

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WALL STREET

New York (Reuter) - Shares gained in early trading with blue chips moderately higher. Traders said the rise was on thin volume and may have exaggerated the effect of light buying orders. The Dow Jones

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings: December 23. Last Dealings: December 23. Last Declaration: For Settlement: December 23. Call options were being out on 23/12/88 North Katgulf Mines, Unigate, M. Labs, Charter Cos, Lonrho, Eurotunnel WA, Atlantic Resources, Stomgard, Charterhall, W&L.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Table of London traded options with columns for Stock, Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec. Includes entries for All Lloyds, All Nat, All Nat, etc.

INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

Table with columns for Bank, Computed at 25%, 40%, Maturity, Notice, Contact. Includes entries for Ordinary Dep A/c, Fixed Term Deposits, etc.

HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS

Table of high interest cheque accounts with columns for Bank, Rate, Maturity, Notice, Contact. Includes entries for Bank of Scotland, Barclays, etc.

BUILDING SOCIETIES

Table of building societies with columns for Society, Rate, Maturity, Notice, Contact. Includes entries for Abbey Nat, Alliance & Leicester, etc.

NATIONAL SAVINGS

Table of national savings with columns for Product, Rate, Maturity, Notice, Contact. Includes entries for Ordinary A/c, Investment A/c, etc.

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

Table of guaranteed income bonds with columns for Product, Rate, Maturity, Notice, Contact. Includes entries for New Direction Fin, Abbey Nat, etc.

FIRST TIME BUYER

Table for first time buyers with columns for Product, Rate, Maturity, Notice, Contact. Includes entries for Building Societies, Banks, etc.

BANKS

Table of banks with columns for Bank, Rate, Maturity, Notice, Contact. Includes entries for Bank of England, Barclays, etc.

OTHER (INSURANCE COMPANY)

Table of other insurance companies with columns for Company, Rate, Maturity, Notice, Contact. Includes entries for Overseas Mortgage, etc.

NEW HIGHER RATES FOR C&G INVESTORS Effective from 3rd January 1989

Table of interest rates for C&G investors with columns for Interest Paid, Net%, Compounded Annual Rate, Gross Equivalent CAR%. Includes entries for Cheltenham 4 Year Term Share, Cheltenham 2 Year Term Share, Cheltenham Gold Account, etc.

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Advertisement for C&G Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society with contact information and interest rates.



Sharp-eyed investors spot silver linings



George Davies: vexed Next

Stock market traders hoping for a decent recovery last year were disappointed. The FT SE-100 index remained stuck in a narrow band - from 1,694 to 1,878 - and seldom looked like holding the high ground.

Worries over the future of high street spending cast a damper over the whole retail sector. But some parts of the economy continued to encourage investment support.



Sir Richard: capital gains

Jute firm weaves its way to top performing share

By Cliff Feitham

After 105 years, the little-known Tighar Jute Factory, founded in 1883 by Dundee jute merchants, and considered permanently confined to the backwaters of the stock market, has romped into the charts as the best performing share of 1988.

Starting the year at just 80p, the shares were suspended in May because the company failed to pay its listing fees. But they soared on their return after news that Mr Reg Brealey, the entrepreneur, had picked up 29 per cent of the shares and was planning a reorganization of the group.

Noble Rareton, which used to be called Gnome Photographic, a manufacturer of overhead projectors, took off when the younger sister of Mr Aziz Nadir, the Polly Peck chairman, took over.

WINNERS AND LOSERS 1988

Table with columns: Under £25m, % rise, Price. Lists various companies like Tighar Jute, Noble Rareton, ML Labs, etc.

According to Datastream, which compiled the list for The Times, the best performer among the larger company stocks was Crown Communications Group, the result of a merger between Crown TV and Chalford Communications, the commercial radio group with a stake in LBC, the London news station.

based in the North-west and which observers believe is being stalked by a large bear. But 1988 also had its fair share of casualties, in particular the fall from grace of a number of market favourites. Mrs Fields, the American cookies company arrived on the Unlisted Securities Market two years ago in a fanfare of publicity, but it has been downhill ever since.

At the end of the day, there will be very few people in the City who will mourn the passing of 1988. A year, it will be recalled, when Big Bang exploded in the face of hundreds of workers in the securities industry who enter 1989 looking for a new job.

A lesson in regulation when Rico rides into Wall Street

In New York, Drexel Burnham Lambert, America's fifth largest investment house, agreed to plead guilty to six fraud charges brought by the US Government and to pay staggering - but staggered - penalties and fines of \$650 million (\$361.31 million).



Kenneth Fleet

The move presents a revealing contrast in the methods of the United States with those of Britain to regulate their securities industries - a critical and sensitive area for Mrs Thatcher, bearing in mind the Guinness saga and the Barlow Clowes affair.

only certain way of making money on the stock market, was fined \$362,000 and given a two-year sentence. The Manhattan attorney would also testify to the value of America's Organized Crime Control Act of 1970, and in particular to the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) section.

Drexel made the biggest single contribution to the latest transformation of corporate America by creating a \$100 billion market in high-yielding, high-risk securities. These "junk bonds" have financed a new breed of entrepreneur in takeover bids on a previously unimagined scale.

However, the Rico is clearly too useful a weapon to be used only against the mafia and has been found to be very effective against white collar suspects. Princeton/Newport, a small investment firm charged under the Rico section, filed for bankruptcy this month.

On the face of it, had the DTI not been satisfied with the rigor of NatWest's investigation of itself, it was a long time making up its mind (it claims to have done so in October but spent two months in finding the right inspectors) to have an investigation of its own.

Had County counted in Blue Arrow shares bought for its own discretionary clients, it would have been above the 5 per cent disclosure limit without the market-makers' 4.6 per cent.

NatWest faces testing time with DTI

We see the opposite end of the spectrum in National Westminster's role in the 1987 acquisition by Blue Arrow of Manpower, the US employment agency group.

merchant banking subsidiary, arranged an £837 million rights issue to finance the takeover of Manpower by Blue Arrow, County's client.

At this stage everything seemed to turn on whether County was right in not disclosing immediately the size of its stake. It argued that section 209 of the Companies Act permitted it not to reveal the market-makers' 4.6 per cent stake as it was held for the purpose of market making.

Large table of financial data with columns: Bid Offer chng Ytd. Contains various financial metrics and company names.

# FAMILY MONEY

## Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

For readers who may have missed a copy of The Times this week, we repeat below the week's Portfolio price changes (today's are on page 14).

Stock	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
1	+4	+3	+4	+4	+4	+4	+4	+4	+4	+4	+4	+4	+4	+4	+4	+4	+4	+4	+4	+4	+4	+4	+4	+4
2	+5	+4	+6	+2	+3																			
3	+8	+5	+4	+2	+5																			
4	+7	+5	+6	+3	+2																			
5	+3	+4	+4	+4	+3																			
6	+6	+5	+5	+4	+2																			
7	+4	+4	+6	+1	+2																			
8	+7	+5	+3	+2	+7																			
9	+3	+5	+5	+3	+2																			
10	+4	+3	+3	+3	+5																			
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42	+4	+3	+6	+1	+2																			
43	+6	+4	+4	+2	+3																			
44	+7	+6	+2	+1	+3																			

ALL BOX NO. REFILLS SHOULD BE SENT TO:  
BOX NO. DEPT.  
P.O. BOX 484,  
WINDING STREET,  
WAPSWICK,  
LONDON,  
E1 9DD.

## Reprieve for borrowers on annual plans

By Vivien Goldsmith

Higher monthly mortgage repayments have been postponed for a month until February in a move which could make all the difference for the 40 per cent of borrowers on annually set mortgage plans.

The Nationwide Anglia, the third largest building society, will have to set the annual rate in the middle of January in order to get the new payments flowing from February 1.

Pressure will be on Nationwide to set a new rate for all customers at the same time so the 40 per cent on annual review - nearly 400,000 borrowers - can be put on that rate. But the society may want to delay setting a rate until later in January and will set an arbitrary rate for those on annual review to reflect the coming further rise without actually matching it.

The Halifax has 70 per cent of its 1.6 million borrowers on annual review. It said it is in no hurry to announce a new rate before the new year.

Those on annual review start paying the new rate in April. The outstanding debt is worked out on January 31 and borrowers receive notice of their new payments during February.

The new rates - probably 13.5 per cent if the current economic climate persists - are almost certain to be in force by February.

Those on annual review with the Nationwide Anglia have been paying 10.3 per cent, the rate prevailing at the beginning of the year. The rate fell to 9.75 per cent on May 1, rose on August 1 to 11.5 per cent and to 12.75 per cent on October 1.

The new rate is likely to mean a rise of more than three percentage points for borrowers on annual review.

The monthly payments on a £60,000 repayment mortgage at 10.3 per cent are £499.22, while the payments at 13.5 per cent are £620.35 - a rise of £121.13 or nearly 25 per cent.

Interest payments on a £60,000 endowment mortgage rise from £450.63 at 10.3 per cent to £590.63 at 13.5 per cent - a rise of £140 more than 30 per cent.

The Newcastle Building Society defended its once-a-year change system by saying there have been 19 rate changes since its scheme was introduced in 1982 - nine up and 10 down. The effect of these changes in those seven years has been to increase the capital due to be repaid on a £10,000 mortgage (the average in 1982) by £30 gross or £21 net.

"This surely invalidates completely any argument about such a system being to the detriment of the borrower. It enables sensible budgeting for a full year."

Other societies such as the Abbey National and Alliance & Leicester are keeping the situation under review. "We might not have to make any changes at all," said an optimistic spokesman for Abbey.

The TSB has put its rates up to 14 per cent for endowment mortgages and 14.2 per cent for repayment mortgages from January.

Both societies have put up savers' rates. The Alliance & Leicester's top rate on its four months' notice account is now 10.25 per cent on balances over £25,000, an increase of 0.65 percentage points while the Gold Plus instant access account top rate for £25,000 and over moves to 9.25 per cent.

## Speed Santa safely through the snow

23  
Cold calling should be second nature, but you make a pitch at an insurance broker, insisting he needs more life cover. He complains to LAUTRO that you have broken cold calling rules by forcing your way into the house at midnight. Go back three squares.

22  
Messy card launches a new charity based affinity card, and recognises your sponsorship potential. They pay you £5 for each new card taken out, and one per cent of the turnover. Go straight to the end.

21  
Recognise that in the tough world of the late eighties, you will have to combine business with goodness. Enroll in a direct sales force and miss a turn as you learn how to sell pension plans to the adults, while giving toys to the children.

20  
Leave gold coins you picked up in the Channel Islands to please a developer's teenage daughter. Move back two squares for being too clever by half. You only avoid VAT if you buy and keep the coins in the Channel Islands.

19  
Narrowly miss a light aircraft as you start to glide in at house level - but all is well. The pilot assumes he's hallucinating and says nothing to anyone.

18  
Customs and Excise seizes up and your sleigh insisting you itemise everything you have brought in and pay VAT on it. Argue you are exempt as an overseas charity and throw a six to escape.

17  
Eat your egg sandwiches half way through the tour, realising that the egg seemed suspiciously soft as you swallowed it. Go into NHS isolation hospital - you could not afford the private insurance subscriptions this year - for Salmonella tests and only emerge on throwing a six.

16  
Leave investments in Luxembourg based umbrella funds to City investment analysts, who have still got a job. Move forward six squares, as they switch from fund to fund, without any capital gains tax worries as long as they can find any gains in the first place.

15  
Helpfully provide deeds of covenant forms from last year for grandparents across Britain, to remind them to be generous too. Go back one square: the tax concessions on deeds of covenant disappeared in this year's Budget.

14  
Leave a seven year National Savings Certificate with tax free proceeds at Number 17, and then remember Little Fred doesn't pay tax. Sue your professional adviser under the best advice rule - he suggested the move - and miss a turn.

13  
You tell a child that if he wants to make his fortune, he must start saving now. Miss a turn for giving unauthorised financial advice.

12  
The tax inspector finally decides that your cloak and boots are wholly and exclusively used in the course of your work. Move forward three spaces to claim tax relief on any UK earnings you may have.

11  
The tax inspector finally decides that your cloak and boots are wholly and exclusively used in the course of your work. Move forward three spaces to claim tax relief on any UK earnings you may have.

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2  
The tax inspector finally decides that your cloak and boots are wholly and exclusively used in the course of your work. Move forward three spaces to claim tax relief on any UK earnings you may have.

1  
The tax inspector finally decides that your cloak and boots are wholly and exclusively used in the course of your work. Move forward three spaces to claim tax relief on any UK earnings you may have.

DESIGNED BY TOM TOCKELL

### NEW HIGHER RATES FROM JANUARY 3RD

# Enjoy a Prosperous New Year with Cheltenham Gold

Invest in Cheltenham Gold and you'll be sure of a very prosperous New Year. Our new higher rates make Cheltenham Gold an exceptional investment opportunity and when you compare these 'no strings' rates with other major building societies you'll see just how exceptional.

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<b>6% NET ON £1 OR MORE</b>	
NO NOTICE NO PENALTIES	

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Branches throughout the UK. See Yellow Pages. Member of the Building Societies Association. Assets exceed £5,000 million.

Rates may vary. \*Interest paid annually. ‡Compounded Annual Rate. †Withdrawals subject to normal branch limits.

Father Christmas, the classic high net worth individual, is self-employed and domiciled overseas for tax reasons. But he has a real sense of community giving all the same. Completing the long journey each Christmas Eve is never easy, but

even more so this year, as, unfortunately, money problems keep cropping up and wiping the "ho ho ho" from his bearded lips. So help Santa complete his festive trek as quickly as possible - take a dice, and put yourself in his position...

## Cheshunt first to defy ombudsman's orders



Sitting pretty now: Peter and Julia Morgan and daughter Kiri after changing their mortgage

A building society has defied Mr Stephen Edell, the Building Society Ombudsman, for the first time, after he ordered it to waive a mortgage redemption charge.

The Cheshunt Building Society denied that charging the penalty was unfair treatment and refused to comply.

But the tale had a happy ending for Mr Peter Morgan and his wife Julia - for despite the ruling they redeemed their £22,000 mortgage with the Cheshunt by using their right to repay it without penalty when mortgage rates rise.

The problems began in 1987 when Mr Morgan, a local government officer, realized that he could find a cheaper mortgage elsewhere, and decided he wanted to move the mortgage on his home in Saffron Walden, Essex.

But Rule 19 of the society says that when a mortgage is repaid within the first five years, a payment has to be made of three months' interest. In Mr and Mrs Morgan's case this amounted to £350.

"I did not want to pay the forfeit," said Mr Morgan. "It had not been pointed out to me that I would have to do this. It was buried in the rules. It was very obscure."

There were 58 rules at the time the Morgans signed their deeds. Mr Alan Reece, the chief executive of the Cheshunt Building Society, said: "The society tells solicitors to point out any significant details in the rules and we would not have expected them to have signed if they were not happy with them."

Mr Morgan now says: "The problem was I was naive enough to believe they were offering me the best deal when I took out the mortgage. I feel I was definitely misled." Mr Edell was initially minded to order the Cheshunt to lower the interest rate as an alternative to waiving the penalty. But he was persuaded by the building society that this was not fair and eventually ordered the society to release Mr Morgan from his mortgage without a penalty.

This it refused to do on the grounds that the power to levy a redemption charge within the first five years was set out in the rules, and Mr and Mrs Morgan were bound by the rules.

The society also maintains that it would be "unfair to other borrowers" if an exception was made in this case.

"The policy is well established and well defined and has been applied consistently," said Mr Reece.

But there are circumstances when the penalty is not levied by the Cheshunt, including the death of the borrower, cases of hardship and when the mortgage rate is increased.

As the dispute between the building society and the Morgans dragged on, the mortgage rate climbed, and on November 2 this year, they redeemed the mortgage without paying a penalty.

Mr Edell is not opposed to

the charging of a penalty as such, as long as this is pointed out at the stage when the borrower can go elsewhere for a mortgage.

He pointed out in his first annual report this year that he did not consider it was sufficient to refer in general to provisions in the rules to charge a redemption penalty.

Not one of the larger building societies charges a redemption penalty, but many of the smaller ones continue to do so.

So while just over half the building societies charge penalties, only 15 per cent of mortgages are subject to redemption charges.

The justification for the charge is that it covers the administration costs of closing the mortgage and compensates the building society for ending what was envisaged as a long-term agreement.

Some societies such as the Nationwide Anglia, Yorkshire, Leeds Permanent and Northern Rock charge interest until the end of the month, regardless of which day the mortgage is actually redeemed.

Others, such as the Skipton, charge one month's interest; the Guardian, Regency and Sussex County charge two months' interest; and the Cheshunt, the Chelsea, Leamington Spa, Lambeth and Portsmouth building societies charge three months' interest.

**V.G.**

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust information with columns for 'Old Offer Price', 'New Offer Price', and 'Change %'. Includes various fund names like 'Fidelity', 'Investment', and 'Equity'.

ing fall... was her... 16... sive... to... s... ing... r... to... ster... has... n... r... ck... the... in... ma... for... big... aid... on... r... use... the... th... are... re...

The prices in this section refer to Thursday's trading

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Table of unlisted securities with columns for 'Company', 'Price', 'Change %', and 'Volume'. Lists various companies and their share prices.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table of foreign exchange rates for Sterling, Dollar, and Euro, including spot and forward rates for various currencies.

MONEY MARKETS

Table of money market rates, including discount rates, clearing banks, and interest rates for various terms.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices for various metals, oils, and agricultural products, including London Metal Exchange and LME futures.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table of investment trusts with columns for 'Trust Name', 'Price', 'Change %', and 'Volume'. Lists various investment funds.

# Escaping from a warm Christmas

PAUL LOVEALE



A crowded Heathrow Airport last night held a surprise for Linda Ellis, aged five, below, who met Father Christmas while she was waiting for her flight.



Continued from page 1  
animals will be decorated with Christmas trees and tinsel, and airline staff will wear fancy dress or sing carols. Sir Bryan Nicholson, chairman of the Post Office, announced yesterday that the Royal Mail had successfully cleared the decks of 1.5 billion letters and cards, including 500,000 to Father Christmas at the Royal Mail's specially created address in "Reindeerland". They had also delivered 60 million parcels, beating last year's record. Supermarkets are convinced that they are going to break all records today despite the exodus of so many customers to destinations abroad. But

shops were yesterday accused of staging "a massive Christmas rip-off" and raking in "scandalously high profits" by Mr Barry Sheerman, chairman of the Opposition front-bench spokesman on home affairs. He wrote to three Cabinet ministers - the Home Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd, the Trade and Industry Secretary, Lord Young, and the Transport Secretary, Mr Paul Channon, demanding an inquiry into the exploitation of Christmas shoppers. "In Britain the profit margin is 5 per cent to 7 per cent," Mr Sheerman claimed, "whereas in America and many other countries it is only 1 per cent."

The John Lewis Partnership reported yesterday that customers had spent a record amount of nearly £21 million at its Waitrose branches in the week to December 17. Mr Sheerman also accused brewers of over-charging for non-alcoholic drinks. Nonetheless brewers and publicans confirmed that sales of low alcohol and non-alcoholic beers and wines had boomed this Christmas, showing greater growth than any other sector. Mr Robert Croyer, Labour MP for Bradford South, urged the Government to "bring a little Christmas cheer to the needy" by introducing cut-price television licences.



## BOXING DAY

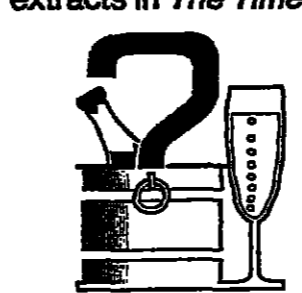
On Monday *The Times* will be the only quality paper to be published

### First Light

● *First Light*, Peter Ackroyd's latest novel, is set in Dorset, where a remarkable star is being studied, and a strange burial mound excavated. On page 22 today the author tells the story behind the book. Read *First Light* in six extracts in *The Times* next week, starting on Monday.



● Charades: Starting on Boxing Day, a sparkling (but simple) competition to test your knowledge of imaginary characters, with five crates of champagne to be won.  
● Bernard Levin: on power, arrogance and corruption at home and abroad.



## NEXT WEEK



What do Joan Collins, Frank Carlucci, Derek Jameson and Father Christmas have in common? All come under junior scrutiny in *Early Times*, a special 12-page issue of the children's newspaper free with *The Times* on Tuesday. In the same issue, teachers are taken to task by their pupils; and the pantomimes are reviewed by those who really know them...

Plus ● A far, far better thing? A series to mark the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution.  
● Hanson's next step: In an exclusive interview, Lord Hanson talks to *The Times* about his plans.

To ensure your Boxing Day copy of *The Times*, place an order with your newsagent today.

## Police link wanted IRA men to Inglis Barracks explosion

By Stewart Tendler, Andrew Morgan and Ruth Gleddhill  
Scotland Yard anti-terrorist detectives hunting two IRA men who fled a south London bomb factory have linked the fugitives with the bombing of Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, in which a serviceman died. The bomb was left inside a barrack block at the main living quarters of the Forces' postal services and exploded early in the morning last August. Nine soldiers were injured in the blast, the first successful IRA attack since the 1984 Brighton bombing. Yesterday, as the search for the two men continued, detectives remained convinced they had not escaped from the mainland. A man and a woman, thought to be linked to Sinn Féin, were held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act

## Growing doubts over 747 bombing theory

Continued from page 1  
warning. Mr Portillo confirmed that the department received the warning from the US Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) on December 9. It had asked the security services to weigh up the information. "We were satisfied, having assessed it, that the enhanced security for American planes was satisfactory and appropriate." For many years, there has been extra security measures for American airlines in Britain. Asked why the public was not told he said: "This was confidential and classified American intelligence information and we felt we did not have a right to divulge it." He said that, if all the warnings that were received were fed to the public without any examination, they would lose their impact. Earlier on BBC radio, Mr Channon said that such warnings occurred all the time. He declared: "Each one is taken very seriously and each one has to be evaluated and you have to decide what, if any, extra measures have to be taken as a result. This is happening all the time." Mr Channon faced an angry attack from Mr Prescott yesterday for not disclosing in the Commons on Thursday that a warning had been received. The Labour spokesman said: "You do trust ministers to tell everything on these occasions. That did not happen." But the department said that, before the statement was made, it had been felt inappropriate to single out this warning, one of many constantly made to the Government, before it had had the opportunity to communicate with the FAA.

Continued from page 1  
one-bedroom flat is Miss Christine Kellaris, aged 27. She first rented it from Wandsworth Council about five years ago and bought it two years ago. After the barracks bombing, there was speculation that the bombers were part of a Continental unit who had slipped in and then out of Britain. Yard sources now believe the two missing men could be part of that unit and have returned in the past two months. The fugitives could have been linked to the barracks bombing by finds in the Clapham flat; the bomb at Mill Hill may have been matched with some of the material in the flat, thought to have contained more than 100 lb of Semtex explosives and six and nine-day timers. The owner of the small,

### THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,861

Crossword puzzle grid with numbered squares for words. Includes 'ACROSS' and 'DOWN' clues such as '1 Untrustworthy, like a mule?' and '11 Discards clubs, say, to win South's confidence?'.

**ACROSS**  
1 Untrustworthy, like a mule? (8).  
5 American author's cloak (6).  
9 Ramble passed through a narrow passage (4).  
11 Discards clubs, say, to win South's confidence (7).  
13 Islander's king takes queen, perhaps (7).  
15 Become attached, as Bill is to island (7).  
21 For example, two to one it's a logical issue (8,6).  
22 Martyr's shroud, say (4).  
23 For instance, Meredith, Orwell and French novelist (6,4).  
24 Poet that initially might be alternative to Graves (6).  
25 Leader of Greek enemy 'ad destroyed Trojan youth (8).

### WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?  
By Philip Howard  
**FEARISTIC**  
a. A resinous glue  
b. Experimental  
c. Freebooting, brigandantly  
**BAM**  
a. To shove  
b. A sugared bun  
c. Monetary unit of Thailand  
**SINGULT**  
a. A sob  
b. Gull's pick  
c. Select, selected out  
**BOL**  
a. Resque skinkles  
b. A fortified drink  
c. Stupid in-laws

### SHEAFFER

A prize of a distinctive Sheaffer 'Targa' Regency Stripe fountain pen with a solid 14-carat gold inlaid nib will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Jumbo Crossword and conies, page 22  
Sports crossword, page 37

### WEATHER

Strong to gale-force winds will ease across north and north-east Scotland, with squally showers, some of snow or hail. Central and south-east Scotland will be bright or sunny. Elsewhere will be mild and cloudy with outbreaks of light rain or drizzle. Extreme south and south-west will be mostly dry. Outlook: Mild, wind and rain spreading from west.

Table with columns: ABROAD, AROUND BRITAIN, LONDON, MANCHESTER, YESTERDAY, THE POUND. Includes weather forecasts for various locations and exchange rates.

### HIGH TIDES

Table with columns: TODAY, TOMORROW. Includes high tide times for London Bridge, Avonmouth, Cardiff, Dover, Liverpool, Margate, Newcastle, Plymouth, Southampton, Swansea, Tees.

### LIGHTING-UP TIME

Table with columns: TODAY, TOMORROW. Includes lighting-up times for London, Manchester, and other locations.

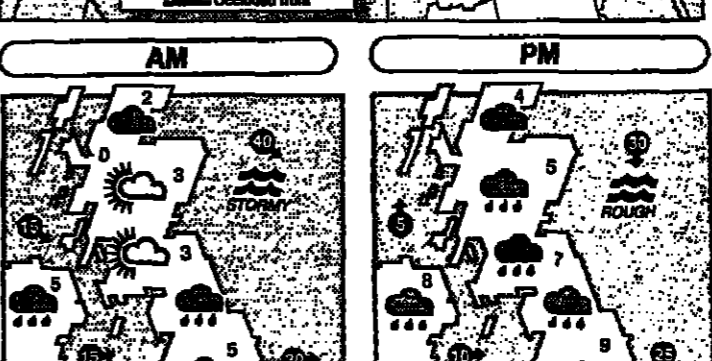
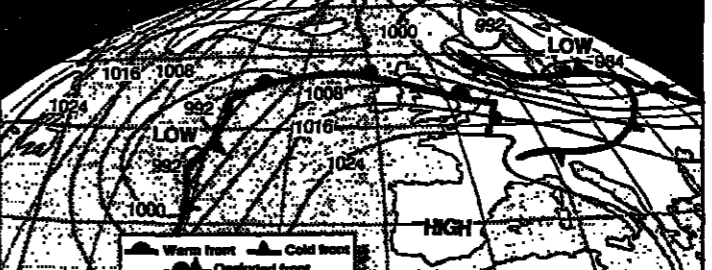
### HIGHEST & LOWEST

Table with columns: TODAY, YESTERDAY. Includes highest and lowest temperatures for various locations.

### THE POUND

Table with columns: Bank, Bank, Bank, Bank. Includes exchange rates for various currencies like Australia, Canada, Denmark, etc.

### NOON TODAY



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